

Hoke County Newsletter

Holiday 2014

Welcome!

Welcome to the Hoke County Newsletter. Inside you'll find information of what's going on inside Hoke County.

If you have any questions, comments, or concerns, please email

Newsletter
@hokecounty.org



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Congratulations to Chairman Leach

At the Lumber River Council of Governments Annual Meeting, held on October 16, 2014, Hoke County Chairman James A. Leach received two great honors.

The Calvin Haggins Award, which is given to the Outstanding LRCOG Board Member of the Year, and the L.E. McLaughlin, Jr. and Bob Gentry Award, which is given for Regional Leadership were both presented by St. Pauls Mayor Gordon Westbrook.

The Outstanding LRCOG Board Member of the Year Award is named in memory of the late Calvin Haggins, and recognizes a member of the Board of Directors who has demonstrated out-

standing leadership and dedication to the LRCOG during the past year. Mr. Haggins was a member of the Fairmont Town Council and a devoted member of the LRCOG Board of Directors.

The Regional Leadership award is a prestigious award that was renamed in September of 2004 to honor the leadership of two dedicated former members of the LRCOG Board of Directors, Mr. L.E. McLaughlin, Jr. and Bob Gentry. While both members served with honor, they also served as friends, putting aside the often strained relationships between jurisdictions. Both men, while dedicated to their respective local gov-

ernments, realized that successful endeavors often cross geographic boundaries. Their friendship became indicative of relationships made and strengthened at the LRCOG table.

Chairman Leach is the first person to ever receive both awards. Congratulations!

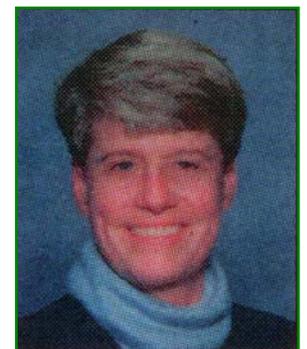


Thank you Vice Chair McNeill and Commissioner Powell

Thank you to both Vice Chairperson Ellen McNeill and Commissioner Jean Powell for your tireless efforts during your terms of service.

Both of these women will be leaving the Hoke County Board of Commissioners this year.

We wish you luck in your future endeavors!



Maintain, Don't Gain This Holiday Season!

This holiday season, the only thing that should be stuffed is the turkey! Many Americans gain between 1 and 5 pounds each holiday season. While it may not sound like much, most people never manage to lose these extra pounds.

Instead of allowing the weight to accumulate, you are invited to join the ninth annual Eat Smart, Move More, Maintain, don't gain! Holiday Challenge. This free seven-week challenge provides participants with tips, tricks and ideas to help maintain their weight throughout the holiday season. The challenge will begin November 17 and will run through December 31. How to join:

Sign-up at www.esmmweighless.com.

- Click on the Holiday Challenge tab, then click 'Sign Up Today'.
- All participant information is kept confidential.

Once you join you will have access to:

- A calorie counter, a food log and an activity log to track your progress.
- Seven free weekly emailed newsletters with tips to help you:
 - Manage holiday stress
 - Fit physical activity into your day
 - Cook quick and healthy meals
- Daily tips with quick and easy ways to include a new healthy strategy.
- Healthy holiday recipes – that are delicious too!

In 2013, more than 6,283 people from 48 different states and Canada took part of the challenge. 90% percent reported maintaining their weight. In addition, 23% percent reported losing 3 to 5+ pounds. Over 99% of participants said they were very likely to somewhat likely to participate in the Holiday Challenge again.

The Eat Smart, Move More, Maintain,

don't gain! Holiday

Challenge is a part of Eat Smart Move More Weigh Less, an online 15-week weight management program using strategies proven to work for weight loss and weight maintenance.

Eat Smart, Move More, Weigh Less was developed by NC State University and the NC Division of Public Health.

Find out more at www.esmmweighless.com.

For questions or comments, please contact Madison Fehling at Madison.Fehling@dhhs.nc.gov or 919-707-5398.



Diabetes Health Symposium, November 1st



Hoke County Animal Shelter

We have been very busy lately as we are preparing for our 8th annual Thanksgiving Dinner/Adoption event for the Animals at the shelter to be held November 25th at 2:00pm.

Each year around Thanksgiving we prepare a large Thanksgiving Dinner for all of the animals here at the shelter. We invite the public and volunteers to come out and help us feed the animals their Turkey feast. With each year that passes their special day just seems to get bigger and better! Their dinner consists of everything you would see at a normal Thanksgiving dinner. We will have at least 3 turkeys this year as well as all the fixings like home. We are very excited to give these homeless animals a special day filled with lots of love.

This year has been a great year for the animals at our shelter. Our adoption and rescue rates have never been this high and with each passing year our numbers just keep getting better and better. We also welcomed a new part time employee to the shelter.

Sanchez Love has been such a wonderful asset to our team and we are so happy to have her. If you see her around feel free to stop her and welcome her too.



If any of you are considering adding a new four-legged friend to your family please feel free to come out and meet

our pets. Each adoption comes with a spay/neuter, microchip, and rabies vaccination. If you have not already “liked” us on Facebook please do so. You can find us by searching Assisting the Hoke Co Animal Shelter. We have almost reached 10,000 fans! This means with each animal photo posted they are being seen by thousands!

We hope all of you have a wonderful Holiday Season!



Julia 1.5 year old lab mix needs a loving home for the Holidays!



**Adopt,
Don't Shop
This Holiday**



January is the Time to List Your Taxes

ALL persons who own or control business, farm, and any personal property subject to taxation in Hoke County or made improvements to real property, MUST LIST all such property and/or improvements for year 2015 between January 2 and January 31, 2015.

There is a 10% late list penalty for failing to list your property after January 31.

All Exemption or Exclusion applications are due no later than January 31, 2015 with the exception of the Elderly/Disability exclusions. This includes but is not limited to churches, non-profit organizations, educational facilities, etc.

The Elderly/Disabled exclusion and the Veteran Disability exclusion applications will be accepted until June 1, 2015. The income limit for the Elderly/Disabled exclusion for 2015 is \$29,000.

Present use applications for agriculture, forestry or horticulture are also due no later than January 31, 2015.

If you wish to appeal your real estate value for 2015, you must file the appeal before the Board of Equalization and Review adjourns. Please call our office to make an appointment with one of our appraisers beginning in January, 2015. If you disagree with the results of your informal hearing, you may appeal to the Board of

Equalization and Review. Date and time of these meetings will be published in The News Journal and also on our webpage.

For more information, visit the Hoke County Website, www.hokecounty.net, choose Your Government – Taxes – Assessor’s Department. Tax Forms are available on the web.

You may also visit our office at 227 N Main St or reach us by phone at 910-875-8751.

~ Jennie Gibson,
Assessor



2014 Official General Election Results—HOKE

HOKE COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS (VOTE FOR 3)

Precincts Reported: 15 of 15

[View Contest Details](#)

NAME ON BALLOT	PARTY	BALLOT COUNT	PERCENT
Allen Thomas, Jr.	DEM	5,937	25.22 %
Harry Southerland	DEM	5,242	22.26 %
Tony Hunt	DEM	4,660	19.79 %
John F. Harry	REP	4,127	17.53 %
Angela A. Thomas	REP	3,579	15.20 %

HOKE COUNTY CLERK OF SUPERIOR COURT (VOTE FOR 1)

Precincts Reported: 15 of 15

[View Contest Details](#)

NAME ON BALLOT	PARTY	BALLOT COUNT	PERCENT
Evelyn M. McLeod	DEM	7,593	100.00 %

HOKE COUNTY CORONER (VOTE FOR 1)

Precincts Reported: 15 of 15

[View Contest Details](#)

NAME ON BALLOT	PARTY	BALLOT COUNT	PERCENT
G. Franklin Crumpler	DEM	7,590	100.00 %

HOKE COUNTY SHERIFF (VOTE FOR 1)

Precincts Reported: 15 of 15

[View Contest Details](#)

NAME ON BALLOT	PARTY	BALLOT COUNT	PERCENT
Hubert A. Peterkin	DEM	8,391	100.00 %

HOKE COUNTY BOARD OF EDUCATION (VOTE FOR 3)

Precincts Reported: 15 of 15

[View Contest Details](#)

NAME ON BALLOT	PARTY	BALLOT COUNT	PERCENT
Barbara Buie		5,108	21.99 %
Irish B. Pickett		4,996	21.51 %
Della Maynor		4,014	17.28 %
Willie Junior McCaskill II		2,799	12.05 %
Gilbert Walker		2,420	10.42 %
Betty J. Perkins		1,965	8.46 %
John Wilson		1,818	7.83 %
Write-In (Miscellaneous)		108	0.46 %

HOKE SOIL AND WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT SUPERVISOR (VOTE FOR 2)

[View Contest Details](#)

Precincts Reported: 15 of 15

NAME ON BALLOT	PARTY	BALLOT COUNT	PERCENT
Leonard Baldwin		5,738	53.80 %
Neil McKenzie		4,824	45.23 %
Write-In (Miscellaneous)		89	0.83 %
Larry McPatter (Write-In)		14	0.13 %

NC CONSTITUTIONAL AMENDMENT

[View Contest Details](#)

Precincts Reported: 15 of 15

NAME ON BALLOT	PARTY	BALLOT COUNT	PERCENT
For		4,732	51.49 %
Against		4,458	48.51 %

NC STATE SENATE DISTRICT 21 (VOTE FOR 1)

[View Contest Details](#)

Precincts Reported: 15 of 15

NAME ON BALLOT	PARTY	BALLOT COUNT	PERCENT
Ben Clark	DEM	7,361	100.00 %

NC HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES DISTRICT 048 (VOTE FOR 1)

[View Contest Details](#)

Precincts Reported: 11 of 11

NAME ON BALLOT	PARTY	BALLOT COUNT	PERCENT
Garland E. Pierce	DEM	3,800	100.00 %

NC HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES DISTRICT 066 (VOTE FOR 1)

[View Contest Details](#)

Precincts Reported: 9 of 9

NAME ON BALLOT	PARTY	BALLOT COUNT	PERCENT
Ken Goodman	DEM	3,487	100.00 %

US HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES DISTRICT 07 (VOTE FOR 1)

[View Contest Details](#)

Precincts Reported: 7 of 7

NAME ON BALLOT	PARTY	BALLOT COUNT	PERCENT
Jonathan Barfield, Jr.	DEM	2,053	64.20 %
David Rouzer	REP	993	31.05 %
J. Wesley Casteen	LIB	132	4.13 %
Write-In (Miscellaneous)		20	0.63 %
Louis Harmati (Write-In)		0	0.00 %

Secure Online Banking

From the Hoke County IT Department

Virtually every financial institution is using the Internet to communicate and allow customers to conduct transactions online. Customers today expect this convenience, and if done securely, these transactions can be as safe as those conducted in person.

Start with the Basics

Ask yourself the following four questions below. If your answer to all three each is a yes, your chances of being impacted by a cyber incident are low. If any of your answers are no, then your chance of being impacted by a cyber incident are high. Understand these risks and take the recommended actions.

Is My Computer as Secure as Possible?

Using an unsecured computer is like leaving the door of your house wide open: you are making it easy for someone with malicious intent to access your property. An unprotected machine can become infected with malware in a matter of moments, leaving you vulnerable to identity theft or other crimes.

Having up-to-date security software protection isn't an option; it's a requirement and should become as automatic as locking your doors when you leave your house. Be sure your computer is current with all operating system and application software updates. Anti-virus and anti-spyware software should be installed, running, and receiving automatic updates.

In addition to taking precautions when using your own computer, practice vigilance when using someone else's. Don't use public computers or public networks for financial or other sensitive transactions. You have no control over the security of a public computer or public wireless network.



Is My Connection to the Internet as Secure as Possible?

Simply connecting to the Internet makes you vulnerable to a potential attack. Using a firewall helps minimize risks by blocking malicious traffic to your computer. Make sure you have a firewall, that it is turned on, and kept updated. New computers may be shipped with it on by default, but double-check.

When entering sensitive information into a website, look for the "https://" and check that the lock icon is present in the URL bar. This indicates that your communications are encrypted. Also pay attention to the browser you use to connect to the Internet. Keep it updated and patched, and set to auto-update. If you are using a wireless network to connect to the Internet, make sure encryption is enabled and change the default network name and password that come with the wireless router.

Is My Password as Secure as Possible?

Strong passwords don't have to be hard to remember, just hard to guess. A good password is at least ten characters and uses a mix of upper case, lower case, and numeric or special characters. Each of your online accounts, especially financial ones, should have its own strong password so that if one is compromised, the at-

tacker does not have automatic access to your other accounts.

Do I Know How to Recognize a Scam?

Keeping your computer secure is only part of the equation when conducting online banking. You need to be alert for scams and the things you can do to protect yourself.

Phishing is one of the most common scams attackers use. A phishing scam typically consists of an email, trying to entice the recipient into clicking a link or downloading an attachment. A phishing scam targeting your financial accounts will consist of an email message notifying you of a "problem" with your account and ask you to click on a link to your "bank's" site and submit sensitive information. This site however is a very convincing fake version of the legitimate site. This website may then prompt you to provide personal information such as Social Security, bank account or credit card numbers, and/or it may download malicious software onto your computer.

Instead of clicking on the link to your bank's website embedded in an email, navigate to the financial institution's website on your own by typing the address directly into your browser. Beware of attached files, as they may contain malware. Open attachments only from trusted sources, and if you are in doubt, don't open it at all. You may also consider using anti-phishing software to help block many phishing-related emails.

Remember, no legitimate financial institution will ever ask you to provide sensitive information in an email.

For More Information

[FDIC: Safe Internet Banking](#)

Holiday Closings at the Library!

Holiday closings at the Hoke County Public Library mean longer DVD rentals for you! Take advantage of this great service to bring additional entertainment to your home this holiday season!

Hoke County Public Library will be CLOSED Thursday, November 27 through Sunday, November 30, 2014 DVDs checked out on Wednesday, November 26 will be due on Monday, December 1

Hoke County Public Library will be CLOSED Wednesday, December 24 through Saturday, December 27, 2014 DVDs checked out on Tuesday, December 23 will be due on Monday, December 29

Hoke County Public Library will be CLOSED Thursday, January 1, 2015 DVDs checked out on Wednesday, December 31 will be due on Friday, January 2, 2015



Veteran's Day Program a Success!

Roosevelt McPherson, author and Army veteran, recently spoke at Hoke County Public Library. His program, "Reflections on Iraq and the U.S. dilemma in the Middle East" was sponsored by [Friends of the Hoke County Public Library](#) and American Legion Post 20, who provided refreshments.

Thanks to Mr. McPherson and everyone who helped! We will be scheduling him for an evening event soon.

Mr. McPherson's book, "Sunni Triangle: a true Iraq war story" is available for checkout at Hoke County Public Library!



Hoke County Public Library's Sheila Evans accepts a check on behalf of the Friends of the Hoke County Public Library from Fayetteville Roller Derby's Walker Texas Danger and VaLisa Raptor. The local roller derby league hosted a double-header this fall to help raise funds for the organization.

Now at Your Library

downloadable audiobooks!

- Compatible with Android™ and all Apple® devices
- Many exclusive titles found **only** on OneClickdigital—best-sellers, classics, nonfiction, and much more!
- Apple®, Android™, and Kindle Fire apps available
- Live technical support at 1-877-77Audio
- User-friendly site for viewing new releases, saving and filtering searches, and much more

The largest collection of popular titles—with no holds, ever!

Brought to you by **RBdigital** and your local library

ARE YOU READY?

Always keep 3 days worth of books on hand for each member of your family. We can help.



Hoke County Solid Waste

Season's Greetings from the land of garbage; on behalf of the folks at Solid Waste we wish you and yours a Happy Thanksgiving, Merry Christmas, and a prosperous 2015 soon to be here.

With the changing of time we are now operating on our winter schedule and

are closing thirty minutes earlier at the convenience sites. For those of you who utilize these sites be reminded of this so that you can get there a little earlier in the evenings.

We now have several new employees at our convenience sites. Vernon McDougald and Tony White at Rock-

fish and Earl Daniels at Scurlock. Each of these new employees look forward to learning and serving our customers in the same friendly and courteous manner as their predecessors.

Enjoy the holidays and remember those who are less fortunate!

Hoke County Planning Department

The Hoke County Planning Department has had an active year in 2014 with six (6) requests to rezone property, two (2) amendments to the text of existing ordinances and ten (10) conditional use permits considered and acted upon by the Board of Commissioners to date. In addition Planning staff has assisted Hoke County Cooperative Extension with reviewing a draft Voluntary Agricultural District (VAD) ordinance that is intended

to provide protections for agricultural uses throughout the county.

The Planning Department has also been working with the Zoning Committee created by the Board of Commissioners to review the existing Zoning and Subdivision Ordinances. The committee has completed its review of the Subdivision Ordinance and is currently working through Chapter 2

Zoning District Regulations of the Zoning Ordinance. The Zoning Committee meets on the second Wednesday of each month at 4:00 PM in the Commissioners Meeting Room in the Pratt Building at 227 N. Main Street, Raeford. The committee meetings are open to the public and anyone with questions, suggestions or recommendations for changes to zoning or subdivision regulations are invited to attend.

Safety Tips from the Inspections Department

Top 10 Cold Weather Precautions

1. Wear three layers of clothing and always layer to protect the head, hands and feet.
2. Drink plenty of fluids, preferably warm, sweet beverages. Cold weather suppresses thirst, and dehydration can occur without proper fluid intake.
3. Increase calorie intake. Working in heavy protective clothing expends more heat, so 10-15% more calories are required.
4. Take periodic breaks to warm up, with additional breaks as wind velocity increases or the temperature drops.
5. Avoid alcohol, nicotine, caffeine, and medications that inhibit the body's response to cold or impair judgment.
6. Avoid the cold if you are becoming exhausted or immobilized, conditions that can accelerate the effects of cold weather.
7. Shield work areas from drafty or windy conditions. Seek a heated shelter if you have prolonged exposure to a wind chill of 20 degrees or less.
8. Work during the warmest hours of the day and minimize activities that decrease circulation.
9. Learn the symptoms of cold-related stresses: heavy shivering, uncomfortable coldness, severe fatigue, drowsiness and euphoria.
10. Work in pairs so partners can monitor one another and obtain help quickly in an emergency.

No Delay in Dispatch

Callers feel when they call 9-1-1 that there is a delay in dispatch due to asking so many questions for EMS, Law Enforcement, and Fire calls. Callers should know that while one dispatcher is asking questions, another dispatcher is getting responders on the way. Callers also need to know that on occasions of high call volumes, there may be several calls and limited responders so the Agencies responding to these calls has to prioritize the responses due to citizen safety or medical priority.

For example, if you call requesting assistance getting your car unlocked when you lock your keys inside, that would be of a lower priority than a burglary in progress. Plus that type of response requires more than one officer to respond so that may delay your call until the burglary call is completed. Your call will be handled by the first available officer.

Power Outages – Contact your electric company.

Power outages often occur during severe weather. It is important to be ready for these situations and anticipate needs such as power outages. During these events, the 9-1-1 system has higher than normal call volumes. Therefore, it is important that homeowners and business owners contact their power company directly to provide the exact location of the power loss and any contact information so the power company can follow up with you about restoring your power. The power company uses automated systems to take these calls so even if you just leave a message, your telephone number is recorded and your location is automatically recorded in their system so they may be able to pinpoint outage areas quicker. A common misconception is that 9-1-1 calling the power company will get your power

turned on faster. That is not the case and the information coming from you actually speeds the process of power restoration as the call will be received immediately from you rather than the power company having to wait for the call to come from 9-1-1. If you have special needs such as electrical powered medical devices such as oxygen equipment and ventilators, you can let your power company know ahead of time so they will have that information associated with your address.

Callers should contact 9-1-1 for power lines down, trees down on power lines or in the roadway, and transformers sparking or on fire.



License Plate Agency

The Hoke County License Plate Agency is open Monday through Friday, from 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. We would like bring awareness to the public that every license plate agency is compensated per transaction. Therefore, since our agency is oper-

ated under the County of Hoke, all transactions you bring to us rather than processing them by mail or online are ultimately benefiting the county! Our office continues to maintain an exceptional error rate, well below the state average, and we try

our best to have little to no wait times, so come see us! We are located at 520 W. Donaldson Ave., Raeford, NC, 28376, and we look forward to serving you!

Senior Services



National Adoption Month

November is National Adoption Month. Please help us support and spread the word...every child deserves a family! You may not want to adopt a child, but you can support the children in foster care waiting for adoption in many other ways. Talk to your friends, your family, your church family...help children in foster care find a forever family by

talking about foster care adoption with everyone you know!

<https://www.childwelfare.gov/adoption/nam/spread-the-word/nam-widgets.cfm>

<http://www.whitehouse.gov/the-press-office/2014/10/31/presidential-proclamation-national-adoption-month-2014>

To find out more about foster care adoption, please visit the following websites: www.adoptUSkids.org or www.ncdhs.gov or www.hokecounty.org

Hoke County Department of Social Services Adoptions Social Worker Contact:

Nickkia McIntyre 910-878-1989

Holiday Charitable Donations

Every year Hoke County DSS begins making plans to advance its mission trying to make sure all of our foster children have a wonderful Christmas. The foster children, who range in age from newborn to 18 years of age, find themselves in the foster care system during the holidays. DSS Children Services staff work endlessly in their efforts to provide foster children with not only a joyful holiday, but a safe and secure environment to ease their

minds and hearts. We want to show them they are cared about. Last year, we provided 40 children with a wonderful Christmas. Our efforts rely heavily upon generous contributions from caring community leaders, the general public and local businesses. We would not be able to continue to provide a little bit of Christmas magic into the lives of the children without their help. We understand that candies and presents will not change their situa-

tion. We would like for the children to experience for one day they can just be like every other child at Christmas and find what they ask for from Santa under the tree. This can be a step towards helping them recover from the traumas they have experienced.

Anyone who would like to help a foster child please contact:
Kristi Pigford 910-878-4048
April Locklear 910-878-1927

Congratulations to Della Sweat

The North Carolina Association of County Directors of Social Services (NCACDSS) elected Hoke County DSS Director, Della Sweat, as their Secretary beginning July 1, 2014. The mission of the non-profit association is

to inform, educate, and empower its members in order to strengthen agencies, programs and the delivery of social services to families and individuals. As part of the NCACDSS Executive Committee, Mrs. Sweat will have

firsthand knowledge of upcoming legislative and policy changes as well as attend meetings with state and federal partners in relation to social services' programs.

Federally Facilitated Marketplace

OPEN ENROLLMENT PERIOD

The Federally Facilitated Marketplace (FFM) is currently in open enrollment status, which began November 15 and closes February 15, 2015. December 15, 2014 is the last date to enroll for coverage that

starts January 1, 2015. You can apply now for medical insurance online at the following website www.healthcare.gov. Once you have applied on the website, you do not need to come to the Department of Social Services to apply. The ap-

plication submitted online will be sent to the state and county where you live. If you have any questions, please contact the Medicaid Supervisor, Diane Simmons, at 910-878-1956 at Hoke County Department of Social Services.

Hoke County DSS Spirit Week Success

Every year during the month of October NC Social Services Association (NCSSA) local chapter plans spirit week at Hoke County DSS. Spirit week is a fund raiser for the local chapter of NCSSA. Team spirit is one of the essential agents to performance and success. It is a time to give Hoke County DSS employees the opportunity to de-stress and builds relationships with peers. Spirit week also helps to develop a positive environ-

ment by promoting humor and releasing tensions. During spirit week employees are encouraged to dress up in different genres; this year we had 80's day; western day; sports day; dress to impress; and character day. It was a week enjoyed by all. Funds contributed by those who participated in spirit week are used to support community projects adopted by the local chapter.



Low Income Energy Assistance Program (LIEAP)

The Hoke County Department of Social Services will begin taking applications for the Low Income Energy Assistance Program (LIEAP) on Monday, December 01, 2014. This year we are targeting the elderly population age 60 and above and disabled persons receiving services through the Division of Aging and Adult Services. We will only be taking applications for persons meeting these criteria from December 01, 2014 through December 31, 2014.

Outreach dates and locations for these target populations will be:

December 4 @ 9:30 am to 10:30 am
Woodcreek Village Apartments
307 Woodcreek Vlg; Raeford, NC

December 8&9 @ 9:30 am to 12:00
Senior Services Center
E. Central Avenue; Raeford, NC

If funds remain, all others may apply beginning January 2, 2015 through March 31, 2015. Eligibility is based on income, resources, citizenship or legal alien status and households that have a heating source. Eligible applicants will receive a one-time payment that will go directly to the vendor.

Aged and disabled applicants that are unable to come into the office to apply can do a phone application.

If you have any questions, please feel free to contact

Melanie Harris at 878-1947 or
Dora McCallum at 878-1945
Hoke County DSS

*All Native Americans must apply at the Lumbee Tribal Office, located in Pembroke, NC.

Child Support Enforcement Efforts

In an effort to improve the lives of children, North Carolina has established an anonymous toll free tip line and email account to locate non-custodial parents. Through this number and email address, people can anonymously provide information to help find non-custodial parents.

The anonymous tip line and email account has been added to the eChild Support Website:

<http://www.ncchildsupport.com/index.jsp>

Click on the Parent's Flag

Directs to the 'Welcome Parent's page.

Click on the 'Contact Us' link

Directs to the 'Child Support Services Contact Information' page

Please contact us by:

Phone Toll-free 1-855-449-8741

Or

Email

cse.client.services@dhhs.nc.gov

The more information you can provide about the identity and whereabouts of the individual increases the probability that Child support payments may be established and enforced.

If known, please provide individual's:

Name, Date of Birth, Address (location and directions), Cell phone (contact number), Employer, Last 4 digits of their Social Security Number, Recent Picture

Christmas in the Park

December 4TH- December 14th
5:30 p.m. to 8:00 p.m.

\$5.00 a carload

3195 Red Springs Rd,
 Raeford, North Carolina

Enjoy Santa, and other characters along with many lights and decorations. As well as enjoying items from our concession stand!

Please help support Hoke County Parks & Recreation by donating large candy canes, poinsettias, deer family, surge protectors, extension cords, and LED Lights (new lights only). Your help is needed to either provide some of the items and/or to make a charitable, tax-deductible donation to Hoke County Parks & Rec. Christmas Project. Money donated should be by check or money order. Cash may be accepted in the office where you will receive a receipt.



Dazzling Holiday Delights

When: Saturday, December 6, 2014
 Time: 10:00 am - 1:00 pm

Where: NC Cooperative Extension
 Hoke Center

116 West Prospect Avenue
 Raeford, North Carolina
 (Beside Turlington School)

Call Cathy James at 875-2162
 to register

Limit: 20

Admission is Free

Sponsored By: NC Cooperative Extension &
 Hoke County Health Department



Adopt a Home Bound Senior for Christmas

Hoke County Senior Services is looking for angels to adopt a home bound senior this Christmas.

If you, your business, or church family would like to adopt a senior this Christmas we ask you stop by the Hoke County Senior Services Christmas tree located at 423 East Central Avenue, Raeford, NC and pull an ornament from the tree. The ornament will have the gender and a number

associated with the senior's name. Please register with a Hoke County Senior Services staff member upon selecting the ornament.

All gifts need to be received by 5:00pm December 15, 2014 at Hoke County Senior Services.

For more information contact Mary Hollingsworth or Della Smith at 910-875-8588,

Sample of items to purchase:

- Body wash
- Lotion
- Toothpaste or tooth brush
- Deodorant
- Blanket
- Word Puzzles
- Cand (sugar free)
- Hair brushes
- Socks
- Hats
- Scarves



HAPPY THANKSGIVING DAY



Thanksgiving Product Safety Tips



Turkey fryers

UL considers turkey fryers to be dangerous to use presenting numerous safety hazards to consumers. "We're worried by the increasing reports of fires related with turkey fryer use," says John Drengenberg, consumer affairs manager of UL. "Based on our test findings, the fryers used to produce those great-tasting birds are not worth the risks. And, as a result of these tests, UL has decided not to certify any turkey fryers with our trusted UL Mark."

Turkey fryer hazards

- Many units easily tip over, spilling the hot oil from the cooking pot.
- If the cooking pot is overfilled with oil, the oil may spill out of the unit when the turkey is placed into the cooking pot. Oil may hit the burner or flames, causing a fire to engulf the entire unit.
- Partially frozen turkeys placed into the fryer can cause a spillover effect. This too may result in an extensive fire.
- With no thermostat controls, the units also have the potential to overheat the oil to the point of combustion.
- The lid and handles on the sides of the cooking pot get dangerously hot, posing severe burn hazards.

Important safety information

If you absolutely must use a turkey fryer, please use the following tips.

- Turkey fryers should always be used outdoors a safe distance from buildings and any other flammable materials.
- Never use turkey fryers in a garage or on a wooden deck.

- Make sure the fryers are used on a flat surface to reduce accidental tipping.
- Never leave the fryer unattended. Most units do not have thermostat controls. If you do not watch the fryer carefully, the oil will continue to heat until it catches fire.
- Never let children or pets near the fryer even if it is not in use. The oil inside the cooking pot can remain dangerously hot hours after use.
- To avoid oil spillover, do not overfill the fryer.
- Use well-insulated potholders or oven mitts when touching pot or lid handles. If possible, wear safety goggles to protect your eyes from oil splatter.
- Make sure the turkey is completely thawed and be careful with marinades. Oil and water do not mix, and water causes oil to spill over causing a fire or even an explosion hazard.
- The National Turkey Federation (NTF) recommends thawing the turkey in the refrigerator approximately 24 hours for every five pounds in weight.
- Keep an all-purpose fire extinguisher nearby. Never use water to extinguish a grease fire. If the fire is manageable, use your all-purpose fire extinguisher. If the fire increases, immediately call the fire department for help.



Office of the Sheriff

Hoke County Sheriff's Office and Emergency Management

HUBERT A. PETERKIN, Sheriff



FOCUS ON FIRE SAFETY

Holiday Fire Safety



Decorating homes and businesses is a long-standing tradition around the holiday season. Unfortunately, these same decorations may increase your chances of fire. Based on data from the National Fire Protection Association (NFPA) and the U.S. Fire Administration (USFA), an estimated 250 home fires involving Christmas trees and another 170 home fires involving holiday lights and other decorative lighting occur each year. Together, these fires resulted in 21 deaths and 43 injuries.

Following a few simple fire safety tips can keep electric lights, candles, and the ever popular Christmas tree from creating a tragedy. Learn how to prevent a fire and what to do in case a fire starts in your home. Make sure all exits are accessible and not blocked by decorations or trees. Help ensure that you have a fire safe holiday season.

Christmas Trees

What's a traditional Christmas morning scene without a beautifully decorated tree? If your household includes a natural tree in its festivities, take to heart the sales person's suggestion – "Keep the tree watered."

Christmas trees account for hundreds of fires annually. Typically, shorts in electrical lights or open flames from candles, lighters or matches start tree fires. Well-watered trees are not a problem. A dry and neglected tree can be.

- **Selecting a Tree for the Holidays** - Needles on fresh trees should be green and hard to pull back from the branches, and the needles should not break if the tree has been freshly cut. The trunk should be sticky to the touch. Old trees can be identified by bouncing the tree trunk on the ground. If many needles fall off, the tree has been cut too long and, has probably dried out, and is a fire hazard.
- **Caring for Your Tree** - Do not place your tree close to a heat source, including a fireplace or heat vent. The heat will dry out the tree, causing it to be more easily ignited by heat, flame or sparks. Be careful not to drop or flick cigarette ashes near a tree. Do not put your live tree up too early or leave it up for longer than two weeks. Keep the tree stand filled with water at all times.
- **Disposing of Your Tree** - Never put tree branches or needles in a fireplace or wood-burning stove. When the tree becomes dry, discard it promptly. The best way to dispose of your tree is by taking it to a recycling center or having it hauled away by a community pick-up service.

Holiday Lights

- **Maintain Your Holiday Lights** - Inspect holiday lights each year for frayed wires, bare spots, gaps in the insulation, broken or cracked sockets, and excessive kinking or wear before putting them up. Use only lighting listed by an approved testing laboratory.
- **Do Not Overload Electrical Outlets** - Do not link more than three light strands, unless the directions indicate it is safe. Connect strings of lights to an extension cord before plugging the cord into the outlet. Make sure to periodically check the wires – they should not be warm to the touch.

Do not leave holiday lights on unattended!

Holiday Decorations

- **Use Only Nonflammable Decorations** - All decorations should be nonflammable or flame-retardant and placed away from heat vents. If you are using a metallic or artificial tree, make sure it is flame retardant.
- **Don't Block Exits** - Ensure that trees and other holiday decorations do not block an exit way. In the event of a fire, time is of the essence. A blocked entry/exit way puts you and your family at risk.
- **Never Put Wrapping Paper in the Fireplace** - Wrapping paper in the fireplace can result in a very large fire, throwing off dangerous sparks and embers that may result in a chimney fire.

Holiday Candle Care

- **Avoid Using Lit Candles** - If you do use lit candles, make sure they are in stable holders and place them where they cannot be easily knocked down. Never leave the house with candles burning.
- **Never Put Lit Candles on a Tree** - Do not go near a Christmas tree with an open flame, burning candles, lighters or matches. As in every season, have working smoke alarms installed on every level of your home, test them monthly and keep them clean and equipped with fresh batteries at all times. Know when and how to call for help. And remember to practice your home escape plan!

Holiday Fire-Safety Tips

As the holidays approach, the U.S. Consumer Product Safety Commission (CPSC) is urging people to look for and eliminate potential dangers from holiday lights and decorations that could lead to fires and injuries.

Each year, hospital emergency rooms treat thousands of people for injuries, such as falls, cuts, and shocks related to holiday lights, decorations, and Christmas trees. In addition, Christmas trees are involved in hundreds of fires each year, resulting in deaths, injuries, and property loss and damage.

Keep your family safe this holiday season by following these safety tips.

Trees

- When purchasing an artificial tree, look for the label "Fire Resistant." Although this label does not mean the tree won't catch fire, it does indicate the tree will resist burning and should extinguish quickly.
- When purchasing a live tree, check for freshness. A fresh tree is green; needles are hard to pull from branches and when bent between your fingers, needles do not break. The trunk butt of a fresh tree is sticky with resin, and when tapped on the ground, the tree should not lose many needles.
- When setting up a tree at home, place it away from fireplaces and radiators. Because heated rooms dry live trees out rapidly, be sure to keep the stand filled with water. Place the tree out of the way of foot traffic and do not block doorways.

Lights

- Indoors or outside, only use lights that have been tested for safety by a recognized testing laboratory, which indicates conformance with safety standards.
- Check each set of lights, new or old, for broken or cracked sockets, frayed or bare wires, or loose connections, and throw out damaged sets.

- Use no more than three standard-size sets of lights per single extension cord.
- Never use electric lights on a metallic tree. The tree can become charged with electricity from faulty lights, and a person touching a branch could be electrocuted.
- Fasten outdoor lights securely to trees, house walls, or other firm supports to protect the lights from wind damage. Use only insulated staples, not nails or tacks, to hold strings in place. Or, run strings of lights through hooks (available at hardware stores).
- Turn off all lights when you go to bed or leave the house. The lights could short out and start a fire.
- For added electric-shock protection, plug outdoor electric lights and decorations into circuits protected by ground fault circuit interrupters (GFCIs). Portable outdoor GFCIs can be purchased where electrical supplies are sold. GFCIs can be installed permanently to household circuits by a qualified electrician.

Decorations

- Use only non-combustible or flame-resistant materials to trim a tree. Choose tinsel or artificial icicles of plastic or nonleaded metals. Leaded materials are hazardous if ingested by children.
- Never use lighted candles on a tree or near other evergreens. Always use non-flammable holders, and place candles where they will not be knocked down.
- In homes with small children, take special care to avoid decorations that are sharp or breakable, keep trimmings with small removable parts out of the reach of children to avoid the child swallowing or inhaling small pieces, and avoid trimmings that resemble candy or food that may tempt a child to eat them.
- Wear gloves to avoid eye and skin irritation while decorating with spun glass "angel hair." Follow container directions carefully to avoid lung irritation while decorating with artificial snow sprays.

Fireplaces

- Use care with "fire salts," which produce colored flames when thrown on wood fires. They contain heavy metals that can cause intense gastrointestinal irritation and vomiting if eaten. Keep them away from children.
- Do not burn wrapping papers in the fireplace. A flash fire may result as wrappings ignite suddenly and burn intensely.

Hoke County Sheriff's Office and Emergency Management



Winter Fires Safety Tips for the Home

The high cost of home heating fuels and utilities have caused many Americans to search for alternate sources of home heating. The use of woodburning stoves is growing and space heaters are selling rapidly, or coming out of storage. Fireplaces are burning wood and manmade logs. All these methods of heating may be acceptable. They are, however, a major contributing factor in residential fires. Many of these fires can be prevented. The following fire safety tips can help you maintain a fire safe home this winter.

Kerosene Heaters

- Be sure that kerosene heaters are legal in your area.
- Be sure your heater is in good working condition.
- Inspect exhaust parts for carbon buildup. Be sure the heater has an emergency shut off in case the heater is tipped over.
- Never use fuel burning appliances without proper room venting. Burning fuel (coal, kerosene, or propane, for example) can produce deadly fumes.
- Use **ONLY** the fuel recommended by the heater manufacturer. **NEVER introduce a fuel into a unit not designed for that type fuel.**
- Keep kerosene, or other flammable liquids stored in approved metal containers, in well ventilated storage areas, outside of the house.
- **Never** fill the heater while it is operating or hot. When refueling an oil or kerosene unit, avoid overfilling.
- Refueling should be done outside of the home (or outdoors). Keep young children away from space heaters—especially when they are wearing night gowns or other loose clothing that can be easily ignited.
- When using a fuel burning appliance in the bedroom, be sure there is proper ventilation to prevent a buildup of carbon monoxide.

Wood Stoves And Fireplaces

Wood stoves and fireplaces are becoming a very common heat source in homes. Careful attention to safety can minimize their fire hazard.

To use them safely:

- Be sure the fireplace or stove is installed properly.
- Wood stoves should have adequate clearance (36") from combustible surfaces and proper floor support and protection.
- Wood stoves should be of good quality, solid construction and design, and should be laboratory tested.
- Have the chimney inspected annually and cleaned if necessary, especially if it has not been used for some time.
- Do not use flammable liquids to start or accelerate any fire.
- Keep a glass or metal screen in front of the fireplace opening, to prevent embers or sparks from jumping out, unwanted material from going in, and help prevent the possibility of burns to occupants.
- The stove should be burned hot twice a day for 15-30 minutes to reduce the amount of creosote buildup.