

# Hoke County Newsletter



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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

## COMMISSIONERS TAKE OFFICE

In December, departing board members Ellen McNeill and Jean Powell stepped down from their seats at the first meeting of the 2015 county governing board.

At this time, two newly-elected Hoke County commissioners

and one returning commissioner took the oath of office.

Welcome and congratulations to Commissioner Harry Southerland and Commissioner Allen Thomas, as well as returning Commissioner Tony Hunt. They took

the oath of office before a crowd of family, friends and community members. Thomas was later chosen to serve as the board's Vice Chairman. James Leach will continue on as the Chairman.



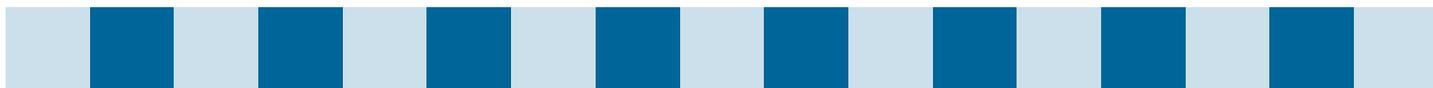
*Photos by Catharin Shepard at the News-Journal*

## 2015 MUNICIPAL ELECTION SCHEDULE

**Candidate Filing Period:**  
8:00 am July 6 -  
12:00 noon July 17, 2015

**One-Stop Voting:**  
Thursday, October 22 -  
Saturday, October 31,  
2015

**Election Day:**  
Tuesday,  
November 3, 2015



## NEWS FROM THE TAX ASSESSOR'S OFFICE



There is still time to apply for exclusions granted to the elderly, permanently disabled persons or totally disabled veterans for the 2015 tax year. Deadline for applications is June 1, 2015.

Elderly and Permanently disabled homestead exclusion excludes \$25,000 or 50% of the value of the house and land (up to one acre), whichever is greater. This exclusion is for your permanent legal residence only. Owner's previous year

income cannot exceed \$29,000 for the 2015 exclusion. Proof of income is required.

Disabled Veteran exclusion excludes \$45,000 in value of the veteran's permanent residence. The veteran must own and occupy the residence. A veteran, as of January 1, 2015 must have a 100% total and permanent disability that is service-connected or has received benefits for specially adapted housing under 38 USC

2101. Unmarried surviving spouse may also receive the exclusion.

Applications may be obtained at the Hoke County Tax Office or from the County webpage: [www.hokecounty.net](http://www.hokecounty.net), choose Your Government > Taxes > Assessor's Department > Forms.

Additional information may be obtained by calling the Tax Listing Office at 910-875-8751.

## PLANNING DEPARTMENT



A common question citizens ask is whether or not they are allowed to have chickens on their property in Hoke County. Currently there are no regulations in the Hoke County Zoning Ordinance to address the ownership or keeping of chickens or any other fowl. While this may be the case before you construct any building or chicken coop you must contact the Hoke County Planning Department to determine if a zoning permit and building permit will be re-

quired for the structure.

It is very important to remember that all fowl must be cared for and protected. It is recommended that you familiarize yourself with how to care for fowl. Hoke County Animal Control is a good resource for information on how to keep animals safe, protected and healthy.

It is also important to note that if you live in a subdivision there may be private restrictive covenants that

could prevent the ownership of chickens. Hoke County does not and cannot enforce private restrictive covenants in subdivisions. If you have any questions about obtaining permits contact the Hoke County Planning Department at (910) 875-8407 or stop on by the offices. We have recently finished up some minor winter reorganization and you should stop in and see what's new.

~Robert Farrell  
County Planner

## NEW COMPUTER SYSTEM IN INSPECTIONS



The Inspection Department implemented a new computer system on January 1, 2014. IworQ System is an internet based system. The system allows us to interact with the use of a tablet

(iPad) emailing the inspection results to the customer upon inspection. It also allows the inspector quick access to all the permit records. Building Inspection request form was installed

on the Hoke County Web Site and is fully operational. This allows all customers to request an inspection at their convenience.

~ Cynthia Love  
Inspections

## PERSONAL BACKUP AND RECOVERY OF YOUR DATA

### What Are Backups?

Backups of computers, laptops and mobile devices are important defense layers in recovering from intentional or unintentional loss or corruption of data. For example, critical information can be lost when your hard drive becomes corrupted; natural disasters can destroy your equipment and device; or malware could infect your computer or device and corrupt your data. With a solid backup and recovery plan, you have a greater chance of recovering from any of these scenarios; without one, those chances are significantly diminished.

There are many different options for backing up and storing your information, and listed below are the commonly used methods.

### Types of Backups

**Full backup:** A full backup includes all files and software. It is important to consider the amount of storage necessary, and the amount of time it would take to not only back up all this information, but also to recover.

**Incremental backup:** In this strategy, a full backup would need to be done periodically, and then only files that have

been changed since the last full backup will be replicated. As an example, a full backup may be performed monthly and a differential backup (only the changed information) everyday at 5pm. Differential backups are beneficial in this case because they take less time to conduct, and recovery of information can be more exact to the time the information was compromised or lost.

### Backup Storage Options

**External Drive:** One of the more common methods of backing up information is storing the backup image on a portable drive. This way, if the hard drive on your computer fails, your backup files are still available to restore. To implement this solution an additional device must be purchased and connected to your computer. If the external device is disconnected, your backup will not be performed as scheduled.

**Cloud-Based Backup:** Performing backups to the cloud is becoming more common. This can be done using a paid cloud service or on eof many free versions. Things to consider include cost and location of storage as well as the security controls that the cloud provider

has in place. Additionally, be aware that with cloud solutions, backups and recovery speeds are dependent on the speed of your Internet connection.

### Hard Drive

Another common method of backing up information requires the use of an allocated area of the hard drive of your computer. While the process is simple to implement and adds no additional costs, the risk associated with this method is the potential loss of all your information and also all your backed up information should you have a serious hard drive failure.

### Developing a Backup Plan

Consider the following when developing a plan:

**How important is the information on your systems or devices?** For critical information, such as contact lists, email, financial transactions, or related business files, you may want to have redundant backup. For less important information, you could back up the information with less frequency.

**How often does the information change?** The frequency of change can affect your

decision on how often the information should be backed up. For example, critical information that changes daily should be backed up daily.

**How quickly do you need to recover the information?** Time is an important factor in creating a backup plan. For critical information, such as business files, you may need to recover your information quickly.

**Do you have the resources to perform backups?** You must have backup hardware of sufficient capacity and software to perform backups.

**What is the best time to schedule backups?** Scheduling backups when system use is as low as possible (such as overnight) will speed the backup process.

### Recovery

Backing up data is futile if you cannot recover it. While automated backup strategies are usually efficient, it is a good idea to check on your backup data periodically. This is important not only to make sure the data is actually backed up and also to review the backup settings.

~ Hoke County IT Dept.



## FAMILIES ALL READ (FAR)

Families All Read (F\*A\*R) is a Smart Start-funded family literacy program for families with children ages 0-5. There are three Family Reading events each month through May 2015, and several Family Literacy Workshops are planned as well.

Each child gets a free book at every event they attend, and there are drawings for special prizes!

Schedules are posted on the Hoke County Public Library's website, [www.srls.info](http://www.srls.info), and on the library's Facebook page, <https://www.facebook.com/HokeCountyPublicLibrary>.

**Smart Start**  
**Go F.A.R. with READING!**

# FEBRUARY 2015

for families of children 5 & under

## FAMILIES ALL READ

**Family Reading Events**

- LET'S GET DRESSED!**  
THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 5 @ 6:30 pm
- HEARTS AND FLOWERS!**  
SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 14 @ 2:00 pm
- LET'S SING AND DANCE!**  
THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 19 @ 6:30 pm
- HANDS - ON FUN + TIPS TO HELP YOUR CHILD BE READY TO READ**  
THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 26 @ 10:00 am

**FREE BOOKS**  
for kids ages 0-5

# Let's Go F.A.R.!

Hoke County Public Library  
334 N. Main St., Raeford  
(910) 875-2502 [www.srls.info](http://www.srls.info)

## TRAIN TO BE A SHIIP VOLUNTEER



@ Your Public Library

- Can you make a difference in your community?
- Do you have the volunteer Spirit?
- Would you like to give back to your local senior citizens?
- Are you interested in learning more about Medicare and other insurance issues?

**Join us @ Hoke County Public Library**  
**At 5:00 pm / Tuesday, February 17, 2015**

**for the program:**

**"Introduction to Becoming a SHIIP Volunteer"**

**Presenter: Gary Knutson:**

**NC Department of Insurance**

For more information contact Lynette Dial @ (910) 875 - 2502.

## Mommy & Me Book Club

For mothers & their daughters in grades K-2

Book Club Meetings, @ 2:00 pm:

- Sat., February 21, 2015
- Sat., March 21, 2015
- Sat., April 25, 2015

*\*\*Reading lists will be available at HCPL, and on the library's website & Facebook page*

Mommy & Me Book Club Tea Party, @ 2:00 pm:

- Sat., May 2, 2015

Hoke County Public Library  
334 N. Main St., Raeford NC  
910-875-2502  
[www.srls.info](http://www.srls.info)





## HOKE COUNTY ANIMAL SHELTER

This winter has been a busy one for Animal Control and the Shelter. We were very blessed to receive so many donations at Christmas time for all of the animals. The Cross Creek Cycling Club did a 60 mile charity ride and raised \$1,000.00 for the shelter. They brought truckloads of fleece blankets, dog and cat food, toys, treats, exercise pens, and even a large octagon play pen for the puppies to romp and play in. Like every year all animals received their very own Christmas gift.

We entered into the new year excited to continue to raise our adoption rates and lower our euthanasia rates. In the past few years our adoption and rescue rate has raised from 14% to 41%. By the end of this year we hope to increase that to a minimum of 50%. We urge you all to spread the word about the shelter and like our Facebook page. You can like us by searching "Assisting the Hoke Co Animal Shelter" on Facebook. We have almost reached 10,000 likes so if you have not already liked us please

do so. Our page has been an incredible tool to help us share our animal's faces and stories to thousands of people at a time. Our animals have been placed all across the country because of our Facebook page! We have people driving from so many different states to save our animals.

Come on out and meet our homeless animals and if you have some spare time come out and volunteer some time with us!

*~ Kristi Pylant,  
Animal Control*



## SOLID WASTE



Greetings from the land of Garbage. Christmas is behind us and we have made it through our busiest season with no major problems or catastrophes. The next deluge of debris comes with the yearly spring cleaning many are anxiously waiting to do.

In recent months we have had incidents at our convenience sites that resulted in Sheriff deputies being dispatched. I would ask that anyone dissatisfied with the

rules please call me or my administrative staff at (910) 875-3111. Arguing and becoming verbally combative with attendants could result in the criminal charge of disorderly conduct.

Larry Hunt, the most familiar face at the Transfer Station, will be retiring in April of this year. Larry has been an exemplary employee to this County and a friend to all. For those who frequent this facility I encourage you

to wish Larry a warm farewell.

On a personal note I would like to thank former Commissioners Ellen McNeill and Jean Powell for their service to the County and to the Solid Waste Department. Both left the Board this year and leave some big shoes to be filled.

*~ Don Russell  
Solid Waste Director*

# PARKS & RECREATION

Fall season was a great success. Football, soccer, and cheer leading ended on a good note. This season all sports had an increase on the number of teams, because of so many sign ups.

Christmas in the park had a great turn out, it made a positive impact of the county.

We are now in the middle of basketball and wrestling season, both sports have a progressive turnout.

For the entire month of February, we are taking registration forms for baseball, t-ball, and softball. Registration forms are also available online.

Line dance every Tuesday and Thursday from 6pm-8pm.

*~ Candace Hargrove  
Parks & Recreation*



# SOCIAL SERVICES

The Hoke County Board of Social Services and Social Services Director recognized outgoing Board Member Ellen McNeill for 8 years of service on the Social Services Board.

The Hoke County Department of Social Services kicked off the New Year with a Manager’s Resolution Retreat on January 13, 2015. There were presenters from Sandhills Community College and UNC at Pembroke providing management and leadership training.



Pictured from L to R Board Members: Shirley Wright, Charlotte Kelly, Ellen McNeill, Gwen Booker, Della Sweat (Social Services Director) and Carl Pevia.



Pictured are(left to right): Kristi Pigford, April Locklear, Diane Simmons, Dora McCallum, Della Sweat, Terry Stanton, Carolyn Lloyd, Tammy Chaney, Tammy Brewer, Melanie Harris, Gloria Baldwin, and Kay McMillian

The Department of Social Services would like to recognize Neukisha Motsinger who is employee of the year for 2015.

Yvonne McNair was recognized as employee of the month for January 2015.



## FROM THE SHERIFF'S OFFICE



We would like to congratulate Detective S. Blakely on receiving his Bachelors of Science in Criminal Justice from Liberty University on December 23, 2014. He is now pursuing his Master's as of January 2015.

We would like to welcome Deputy D. Fuller and Deputy L. Pongratz. We would also like to welcome Detention Officer R. Ross.

The 4th Annual Sheriff's Shoot out Basketball Game will be held Friday Night March 27, 2015 at East Hoke Middle School. Tickets are \$3.00. Please come out and support our students. For more information please call Sgt. Acello at (910) 309-1056 or Major Revels (910) 818-6862.

Sheriff Peterkin would also like to announce that he is

beginning a citizen's academy. Applications will be available at the front desk at the Sheriff's Office. The Deadline to turn in all applications is March 13, 2015. For more information please call Sgt. Acello at (910) 309-1056 or Major Revels at (910) 818-6862.

~ Hoke County  
Sheriff's Office

## EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT

### Heating Safety

There is something about the winter months and curling up with a good book by the fireplace. But did you know that heating equipment is one of the leading causes of home fire deaths?

With a few simple safety tips and precautions you can prevent most heating fires from happening.

- Keep anything that can burn at least three feet away from heating equipment, like the furnace, fireplace, wood stove, or portable space heater.
- Have a three-foot "kid-free zone" around open fires and space heaters.

- Never use your oven to heat your home.
- Have a qualified professional install stationary space heating equipment, water heaters or central heating equipment according to the local codes and manufacturer's instructions.
- Have heating equipment and chimneys cleaned and inspected every year by a qualified professional.
- Remember to turn portable heaters off when leaving the room or going to bed.
- Always use the right kind of fuel, specified by the manufacturer, for fuel burning space heaters.
- Make sure the fireplace has a sturdy screen to stop sparks from flying into the room. Ashes should be cool before putting them in a metal container. Keep the container a safe distance away from your home.
- Test smoke alarms monthly.

### Heating Equipment Smarts:

Install wood burning stoves following manufacturer's instructions or have a professional do the installation. All fuel-burning equipment should be vented to the outside to avoid carbon monoxide (CO) poisoning.

Install and maintain CO alarms to avoid the risk of CO poisoning. If you smell gas in your gas heater, do not light the appliance. Leave the home immediately and call your local Fire Department or Gas Company.

~ Emergency Management



## NC COOPERATIVE EXTENSION 4-H LIFE SKILLS PROGRAM

Shirley Rush, 4-H Life Skills program coordinator, held a workshop on November 13, 2014, from 6 – 8 p.m. at Freedom Chapel AME Zion Church, located at 270 Freedom Church Road in Raeford. Shirley Smith, Family Consumer Services Extension Agent, was the speaker at the Parenting Matters workshop. Parents and children of the western side of Hoke County were invited and dinner was served. Cathy Brown, 4-H Extension



Agent, also attended and assisted with the meal.

The next 4-H Life Skills Advisory Committee will be held at North Carolina Cooperative Extension, Hoke County Center, on March 12th at 4 p.m.

## SOUTH CENTRAL 4- H WINTER ENRICHMENT - JAN 9-10, 2015



The youth that attended this event:

Aaron Clark, Abby Clark, Leeanna Edwards, Alora Edwards, Kevin Beard and D. J. McQueen

## 2014 4-H FARM CREDIT SANDHILLS SHOWMANSHIP CIRCUIT WINNERS, HOKE COUNTY



Goats – Cloverbuds  
5-8 year olds –  
Natalee Jonas and  
Onalise Jonas

Reserve Champion  
Senior Goat  
Showmanship –  
Morgan Rockwell

Heifers –  
Grand Champion  
Senior Heifer  
Showmanship –

## COOPERATIVE EXTENSION UPCOMING EVENTS

Liz Joseph, Area Livestock Extension Agent for Hoke and Cumberland County Centers, would like to make you aware of three events in the area that you might be interested in attending.

**Tri-County Corn and Soybean Meeting  
February 24, 6:00 – 8:00 p.m. | O. P. Owens Agriculture  
Center, 455 Caton Road, Lumberton**

Making high yields and wise investments in the 2015 will be key to profitability with the current reductions in prices. Drs. Ron Heiniger, Jim Dunphy, and Wes Everman will provide results from current studies that are likely to provide useful information for your operation to remain profitable. Pesticide and CCA credits will be available.

A sponsored meal will be provided, so please call Debbie Humphrey at 875-3461 or email [Debbie\\_Humphrey@ncsu.edu](mailto:Debbie_Humphrey@ncsu.edu) by Friday, February 20, to register.

### **Beef Quality Assurance Certification Class**

There will be a Beef Quality Assurance (BQA) Certification Class on Tuesday, March 3, 2015 starting at 6:30 p.m. at the Bladen County Extension Office located at 450 Smith Circle in Elizabethtown. The BQA Program's mission is to maximize consumer confidence of beef by focusing the producers' attention to daily production practices that influence the safety, wholesomeness, and quality of beef. BQA includes record keeping, injection site management, feeding, and animal care. Some cattle sales require BQA certification.

This training is open to all beef producers free of charge. For those producers who want to become certified, you must attend the class, pass the test, and pay the fees to be certified. Costs are \$15 for 3 years of certification for NC Cattlemen's Association Members and \$40 for non-members (includes a membership to the NC Cattlemen's Association). Please bring a check to the training made payable to NC Cattlemen's Association. To register, call the Hoke County office at (910)875-3461 by February 27th.

**Backyard Poultry | Wednesday, March 4, 6:30 p.m.  
Cumberland County Extension Center,  
301 East Mountain Drive in Fayetteville**

Want farm fresh eggs in your backyard? Yes, please! Join Cumberland County Cooperative Extension to learn how to properly care for your backyard chickens. Even if you already have birds, this will be a great learning opportunity. Dr. Donna Carver, North Carolina State University professor and Extension poultry veterinarian, will be here to discuss nutrition basics, parasites, housing, health, and overall management.

The Backyard Poultry Class will be held at the Cumberland County Cooperative Extension building, 301 East Mountain Drive (next to Crown Coliseum,) Fayetteville, NC 28306. Registration is required. Please contact Liz Joseph at 875-3461 or email [elizabeth\\_joseph@ncsu.edu](mailto:elizabeth_joseph@ncsu.edu) to register by Wednesday, February 25 at 5:00 p.m. The class will be canceled if at least 10 people are not registered.