

# HOKE COUNTY NEWSLETTER



SPRING 2016

## INSIDE THIS ISSUE:

Sheriff's Office	2
Tax Listings	3
Human Resources	3
Emergency Communications	4
Health Department	5
Veteran's Services	5
Library	6

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

## Planning Department

Spring is a time when grass, weeds, shrubs, and trees almost seem to "spring" right out of the ground. For most homeowners this also means going out and tending to their yards to control the rapid growth. Unfortunately there are many properties in Hoke County that do not have a current resident. Some of these are foreclosed homes, vacant rental properties, or just vacant, undeveloped lots.

These properties can cause some heartburn with neighbors

because of weeds or unkempt lawns. For all of our own growth that has sprung up the last several years Hoke County is still predominately rural in nature. The county does not regulate the length of grass or whether there are weeds in someone's yard. Hoke County Planning can provide some minor assistance though. We can help community members find or even reach out to property owners so neighbors can let each other know about their yard concerns.

Starting in February

2016 the Hoke County Planning Department has accepted an additional role in the County. Hoke County Planning now handles the issuance of new 911 addresses in Hoke County and the City of Raeford. If you or anyone you know needs a new address, has an issue or question regarding addresses they may contact the Hoke County Planning Department at (910) 875-8407.

We are looking forward to a busy and productive summer.

~ Robert Farrell  
County Planner

## Peace Officer Memorial Ceremony

The Sheriff will be hosting the Annual Peace Officer Memorial Ceremony. The Ceremony will be held on May 11, 2016 at 9:00am in front of the Hoke County Courthouse. The Sheriff and the Sheriff's Honor Guard will perform the ceremony and the reef dedication to

the fallen Officers of Hoke County. There will be guest speakers and the VFW will have a 21 gun salute. The Hoke County High School will provide the MMB Trumpet Trio to provide music for the ceremony. The community is invited to help in paying tribute to the fallen.





## Special Olympics Torch Run

The Hoke County Sheriff's Office will hold our annual Special Olympics Torch Run on May 20th, 2016 at noon. We will start at the Hoke County High School and proceed to highway 401 and end at the Hoke County Court House. The route is approximately three miles long.

Registration for anyone who is interested in participating can be done at any one of the Hoke County Middle Schools, at the High School, or by calling Deputy McMillan (910-624-3316) or Cpl. Francis (910-624-4362). Registration is free but we would ask that everyone purchase a

t-shirt to help raise money for the Special Olympics and wear them the day of the run. The costs of the shirts are 15.00 for the gray cotton blend and 20.00 for the black dri-fit blend. We look forward to seeing everyone join us in supporting the Special Olympics.



## Annual Youth Academy

The Sheriff's annual Youth Academy will be held at Hoke High School June 20-24, 2016. Up to 30 High School students are selected to go through 40 hours of Law Enforcement Training. The High School students are given credit after completion of the program. Applications are being accepted at the Hoke High School SRO Office.



## CONGRATULATIONS!

Join us in congratulating two of our office staff, Jose Hernandez (Gang Investigator) and Monica Richmond (Deputy Clerk) for their participation and their BIG WIN in "Dancing with the Stars"!!!!



Congratulations Major N. Revels for receiving your Advanced Law Enforcement Certification.

## News From the Tax Assessor's Office

### Elderly, Total Disability and Disabled Veteran Exclusions

There is still time to apply for exclusions for the 2016 tax year. Applications will be accepted until June 1, 2016.

### Elderly or Disabled Homestead Exclusion Program 2016

The Elderly or Disabled Homestead Exclusion excludes \$25,000 or 50% of the value of the house and land (up to one acre) whichever is greater.

#### Ownership Requirements:

1. Owner must be 65 years of age or totally and permanently disabled as of January 1, 2016
2. Owner must be a Hoke County resident
3. Owner's previous year income cannot exceed \$29,500 for the 2016 exclusion
4. Exclusion is for your permanent legal residence only

### Application Requirements:

1. Owner must apply for the exemption one-time.
2. Owner must provide proof of Income
3. Totally and permanently disabled persons must complete a certification of Disability and have it signed by their physician.
4. Applications are to be filed between January 1 – June 1, 2016

### DISABLED VETERAN EXCLUSION 2016

#### What is the exclusion?

A permanent residence owned and occupied by an owner who is a North Carolina resident and who is an honorably discharged disabled Veteran or the unmarried surviving spouse of an honorably discharged disabled veteran or veteran who died as a result of a service-connected condition receives a reduction in value of \$45,000.

#### Is there an age or income requirement?

No

#### Is there an application?

Yes. A one-time application is required. Applications may be filed between January 1 and June 1, 2016.

#### What are the requirements?

a. Veteran, as of January 1, has a 100% permanent and total disability that is service-connected, **or** receives benefits for specially adapted housing under 38 U.S.C. 2101

b. The total and permanent service-connected disability must be proven with a veteran's disability certification from VA. This must be the certificate of disability form AV-9A and it must be signed by the Regional office of Veteran Affairs.

c. For those applying under the special adapted housing benefit, a letter

must be submitted from VA stating the 100% service-connected disability and they have received benefits under the specially adapted housing program Title 38, Chapter 12 United States Code.

d. Unmarried surviving spouse must also have the Form AV-9A completed by the Regional office of Veteran Affairs.

Applications may be obtained at the Hoke County Tax Office or from the County webpage: [www.hokecounty.net](http://www.hokecounty.net),

Your Government,>  
Taxes >  
Assessor Dept > Forms

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

~ Jennie Gibson  
Tax Assessor

## Welcome New Hoke County Employees!

### HOUSEKEEPING

Jonathan Wilson

### JAIL

Sheree McInnis

Lemichael Locklear

### LIBRARY

Whitney Simmons

### SHERIFF'S OFFICE

William Patterson

Claudia Jones

Rachel Quiles

### HUMAN RESOURCES

Megan Locklear

Buddy Burns

Tia Holmes

Joseph Flower

### PARKS & RECREATION

Nicholas Hunt

Rodrick Dockery

Richard Goins

Antonio Locklear

Marlene Rogers

### SOCIAL SERVICES

Rebecca Staton

### INSPECTIONS

Anthony Connor

Jazznique Kia Walker

Justin Collins

Jeffrey Blue

### UTILITIES

Hilton Villines

## When Is It Appropriate to Dial 9-1-1?

Citizens are encouraged to dial 911 any time they need assistance, even if they are not sure about the urgent nature of the situation. When in doubt, call 911.

### Common Caller Complaints When Calling 911

#### “Stop Asking Me Questions, Just Get Them Here!”

Too often callers become angered at the 911 Telecommunicator because so many questions are asked. During urgent situations, it does seem like too many questions are asked and it is frustrating. But, there is a reason for everything.

First, questions are asked about “what is exactly happening” in an attempt to keep the responders and everyone involved safe. Also, this helps to determine the proper response with regards to

personnel and equipment.

Second, during high stress situations, adults tend not to think clearly and respond out of emotion. This allows the Telecommunicator an opportunity to calm the caller, keep the caller focused and monitor the situation until responders arrive. By remaining on the telephone the Telecommunicator can receive updated information as it happens and pass it on to the responders, provide medical instructions as needed, and offer comfort to the caller as they know they are not alone during the stressful situation.

It is important to know that even though the caller remains on the telephone – **RESPONDERS ARE ON THE WAY.**

#### “You Have My Address!”

Most people know that when there is an urgent situation and you dial 911, the Telecommunicator receives the caller’s information automatically. What most people don’t think about is how errors can happen.

Sometimes the wrong location/address information was received for whatever reason. Therefore, the 911 Telecommunication must always confirm the caller’s address and telephone number

The caller’s name is important in case there is a problem trying to locate the address and the caller has to be contacted again.

Calls that come in on our business telephone lines, or through cell phones, do not display addresses and

telephone numbers. The caller must always provide the information. The Telecommunicator will confirm the information by asking you to repeat the information for confirmation.

#### Want to know and see more?

Tours are available during the year for school children, civic groups, and interested citizens.

Contact us at (910) 904-2975 if you or your group would like to visit. Small groups of 10 or less are preferred.

~ Jimmy Stewart  
Communications Director



## Hoke County 911 Twitter Feed



Hoke County Emergency Communications has established a Twitter account. Using this Twitter account, we will attempt to keep you apprised of traffic

situations, severe weather such as tornados, and other information that may have an immediate impact.

It is important to know

that this is not a monitored site so if you need help, CALL 911. DO NOT post it on this site.

Our Twitter name is [@HokeCo911](https://twitter.com/HokeCo911)

## Medical Care for Children

The Hoke County Health Department provides high quality medical care for children birth up to age 21 years that do not have a medical home. Services include, well child physical exams, sport physicals, sick visits, and referrals to specialist with potential financial assistance. For more information or to make an appointment please call 910.875.3717.

~ Cindy Morton  
Health Department



## Health Department Classes

### Teen Time

Health Clinic for teens; available 1st & 3rd Mondays of the month, from 4:30PM—7:00PM

### Child Birth Education Classes

Five week series on Thursdays, from 6PM—8PM. Contact Cornelia at (910) 875-3717 Ext: 2104

### CPR & First-Aid Classes

Contact Ulva for more information at (910) 875-3717 Ext: 2106

### Diabetes Support Group

Every 2nd Tuesday of the month from 5:30PM—6:30PM. Contact Ulva for more information at (910) 875-3717 Ext: 2106

### Board of Health Meetings

Held on the 2nd Monday of every month at the Health Department 7PM

### Public Health Advisory Council

Meets every 3rd Tuesday at 11:30AM at the Health Department. Contact (910) 875-3717 Ext: 2106



## VA Life Insurance Program Scores High in Veteran Satisfaction

WASHINGTON – VA’s Life Insurance Program received a strong customer satisfaction score of 81 on a scale of 100 from the American Customer Satisfaction Index (ACSI), an independent survey that scores customer satisfaction for more than 300 private companies and federal and local government agencies.

“VA is proud of the excellent service provided by its dedicated Insurance Program employees and the recent ACSI results they achieved,” said Secretary of Veterans Affairs Robert A.

McDonald. “As part of our MyVA transformation effort, we will use the feedback from the survey to continue to build upon our strong customer service performance and further enhance the experience of the Veterans we work hard to serve every day.”

The objective of the survey is to measure customer satisfaction and identify the critical factors related to improved customer satisfaction. The customer service index score of 81 is well above the government average of 64, and higher than the private life insurance industry average

score of 77. The final score is based on favorable responses to questions of customer satisfaction compared to customer expectations.

In total, nine distinct services were surveyed, including Telephone Service, Requests for Policy Loans and Cash Surrenders, Correspondence, Waiver-of-Premium Decisions, Beneficiary Claims and Designations, and new Life Insurance Applications.

As part of its mission to serve Servicemembers,

Veterans, and their families, VA’s Life Insurance Program provides individuals with the peace of mind that comes with knowing their family’s financial security is protected, given the extraordinary risks involved in military service. VA provides more than \$1.3 trillion in coverage and insured 6.4 million Servicemembers, Veterans, and their families in fiscal year 2015.

For more information concerning VA’s Insurance Program, go to <http://www.benefits.va.gov/insurance/index.asp>.

## Hoke County Public Library

Summer Reading  
@ Hoke County Public Library

# GET IN THE GAME READ

Sign Up, Read Books, Win Prizes!

Reading Dates:  
June 1 – August 1, 2016

Register online at [www.srls.info](http://www.srls.info)  
*You could win a Kindle Fire tablet!*

**Preschool & Elementary Storytime & Programs**  
(Ages 0 -12)

**Tuesdays @ 10:00 AM**

- June 28th - On your Mark...
- July 5th - Get set!
- July 12th - Start your engines 🚗🚗
- July 19th - Field of "Dreams"
- July 26th - Exercise your mind...
- August 2nd - Be on the Fast Track!

**Middle & High School Programs**  
(Ages 13-18)

**Thursdays @ 3:00 PM**

- June 30th - Get in the game...
- July 7th - Movers and Shakers!
- July 14th - Take me out to the ballgame
- July 21st - Be a star!
- July 28th - All-star line-up

*For more Summer Reading information, contact us @*  
**334 N. Main St., Raeford, NC 28376 / 910-875-2502**

## Mommy & Me Book Club 2016

For mothers & their daughters

**Mommy & Me**

**Book Club Tea Party**

@ 1:00 pm

Saturday, May 7, 2016

Please RSVP to Natalie or Lynette

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

## FAMILY GAME DAY 2016

Saturday, May 21  
Saturday, June 4

2:00-4:00 p.m.

Hoke County Public Library  
334 N. Main St., Raeford NC 28376  
910-875-2502 / [www.srls.info](http://www.srls.info)

Board  
games,  
card  
games,  
puzzles,  
and more!



Smart Start SRS

Go F.A.R. with READING!

# MAY 2016

**FAMILIES ALL READ** for families of children 5 & under

**Family Reading Events**

**I LOVE YOU, MOM!**  
THURSDAY, MAY 5 @ 6:30 pm

**CRAWLING BUGS AND FLOATING BUTTERFLIES!**  
SATURDAY, MAY 14 @ 2:00 pm

**CELEBRATION TIME!**  
THURSDAY, MAY 19 @ 6:30 pm

**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



# Story Time

**AT THE LIBRARY**

Tuesdays at 10:00 am for ages 3-5

## Color With Me!

Family Coloring Events

**SATURDAY, MAY 21, 2016**  
**SATURDAY, JUNE 4, 2016**  
**9:00 A.M. TO 12:00 P.M.**

Coloring isn't just for kids anymore!  
Load up the whole family – moms, dads, daughters, sons, grandparents, aunts and uncles! – come to the library, and color something wonderful!

All ages welcome!  
Coloring sheets, crayons, & colored pencils will be provided.



Hoke County Public Library  
334 N. Main St., Raeford NC  
910-875-2502 / www.srls.info



## BASIC COMPUTER SKILLS CLASSES

**TUESDAYS – 5:00-6:00 PM**  
**THURSDAYS & SATURDAYS – 10:00-11:00 AM**

**LIMITED SEATING  
PRE-REGISTRATION REQUIRED**

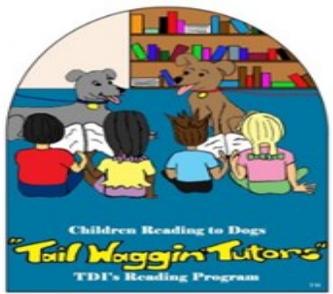
**GETTING STARTED WITH:**

- INTERNET USE \*\*\*\*\*
- E-MAIL \*\*\*\*\*
- JOB SEARCHING \*\*\*\*\*
- RESUMES \*\*\*\*\*
- ONLINE APPLICATIONS

**HOKE COUNTY PUBLIC LIBRARY**  
334 N. Main Street  
Raeford NC 28376  
910-875-2502  
www.srls.info

## Read with Jackson

A "Tail Waggin' Tutors" event for students in grades K-5



**3rd Saturday of every month**  
**3:00-4:00 pm**

Hoke County Public Library  
334 N. Main St., Raeford NC 28376  
910-875-2502 / www.srls.info

OverDrive

Variety of titles

## ENJOY eBooks & audiobooks

on your computer, phone, tablet or iPod.

Easy to use • No late fees • Available 24/7

<http://srlsinfo.lib.overdrive.com>

Now at Your Library



## OneClickdigital

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

## Phishing Emails and You

When it comes to email, we've all come across a phishing email that appeared to be a legitimate email. Phishers take advantage of the fact that it is difficult to know with absolute certainty with whom you are communicating via email. They use this uncertainty to pose as legitimate businesses, organizations, or individuals, and gain our trust, which they can leverage to convince us to willingly give up information or click on malicious links or attachments.

### Be Aware of Phishing Scams

First and foremost you should utilize a spam filter (this service is should be provided by your email provider), keep all of your systems patched and your anti-virus software up to date. The second line of defense against phishing is **you**. If you are vigilant, and watch for telltale signs of a phishing email, you can minimize your risk of falling for one. Telltale signs of a potential phishing email or message include messages from companies you don't have accounts with, spelling mistakes, messages from the wrong email address (e.g. info@yourbank.fakewebsite.c

om instead of info@yourbank.com), generic greetings (e.g. "Dear user" instead of your name), and unexpected messages with a sense of urgency designed to prompt you into responding quickly, without checking the facts. "Resume" and "Unpaid Invoice" are popular attachments used in phishing campaigns. Here are some scenarios you may encounter:

An email appearing to be from the "fraud department" of a well-known company that asks you to verify your information because they suspect you may be a victim of identity theft.

An email that references a current event, such as a major data breach, with a malicious link to setup your "free credit reporting."

An email claiming to be from a state lottery commission requests your banking information to deposit the "winnings" into your account.

An email with a link asking you to provide your login credentials to a website from which you receive legitimate services, such as a bank, credit card company, or even your employer.

A text message that asks you to call a number to confirm a "suspicious purchase" on your credit card. When you call, the operator will know your name and account information and ask you to confirm your ATM PIN. (This is a form of SMSishing.) What should you do?

### Recommendations

Be suspicious of unsolicited emails, text messages, and phone callers. Use discretion when providing information to unsolicited phone callers, and *never* provide sensitive personal information via email.

If you want to verify a suspicious email, contact the organization directly with a known phone number. Do not call the number provided in the email. Or, have the company send you something through the US mail (which scammers won't do).

Only open an email attachment if you are expecting it and know what it contains. Be cautious about container files, such as .zip files, as malicious content could be packed inside.

Visit websites by typing

the address into the address bar. Do not follow links embedded in an unsolicited email.

Use discretion when posting personal information on social media. This information is a treasure-trove to spear phishers who will use it to feign trustworthiness.

Keep all of your software patched and up-to-date. Home users should have the auto update feature enabled.

Keep your antivirus software up-to-date to detect and disable malicious programs, such as spyware or backdoor Trojans, which may be included in phishing emails.

### For More Information

Anti-Phishing Working Group: [www.antiphishing.org](http://www.antiphishing.org)

Internet Crime Complaint Center (IC3): [www.ic3.gov/default.aspx](http://www.ic3.gov/default.aspx)

Federal Trade Commission: <https://www.consumer.ftc.gov/articles/0003-phishing>

~ Information Technology

