

HOKE COUNTY NEWSLETTER

HOLIDAY 2012

McNeill Named RPO Transportation Advisory Committee's 2012 Member of the Year

Ellen McNeill has been named the 2012 Member of the Year for the Rural Planning Organization's Transportation Advisory Committee. The RPO is a voluntary organization of local elected officials and citizens in rural parts of the state working cooperatively with the NCDOT to enhance transportation planning opportunities in their areas.

Mrs. McNeill has served as a Hoke County Commissioner since 2006 and serves her community in numerous other ways. She has been an energetic member of the RPO Transportation Advisory Committee since 2007. She actively works for the improvement of transportation infrastructure in Region N. She is an advocate for the goal of involving local public officials and

citizens in transportation planning to give rural areas a formal voice in the transportation planning process.

"It is truly humbling to be selected as the Member of the Year," says McNeill. "So many members work hard on that committee, and to have been selected this year is especially gratifying. As I work for Hoke County, it takes the entire committee - at least a majority - as well as the staff at the COG for a project to rank high enough for a recommendation. The Committee and staff have been very supportive of Hoke and that is what makes the difference. It is teamwork!"

The Master of Ceremonies for the evening was the Lumber River Council of Government's Chair-

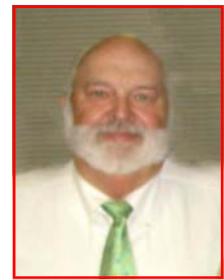


man, and Chairman of the Hoke County Board of Commissioners, James Leach. Commissioners Bobby Wright and Jean Powell were also in attendance that evening. Vice-Chairman Tony Hunt was unable to attend, due to prior commitments. The award was presented to Mrs. McNeill by the RPO Chairman, Leon Maynor.

Congratulations Mrs. Ellen McNeill!



CONGRATULATIONS TO
Chairman James Leach
and Commissioner Bobby Wright
for being re-elected to the
Hoke County Board of Commissioners



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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



2012 General Election Unofficial Results

(results via NC Board of Elections website)

PRESIDENT & VICE PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES (vote 1)

Choice	Votes	Percent	
Obama/Biden (DEM)	10,076	58.96%	
Romney/Ryan (REP)	6,819	39.90%	
Johnson/Gray (LIB)	167	0.98%	
Write-in	27	0.16%	
Total	17,089		

NC GOVERNOR (vote 1)

Choice	Votes	Percent	
Walter H. Dalton (DEM)	9,513	56.41%	
Pat McCrory (REP)	6,956	41.25%	
Barbara Howe (LIB)	391	2.32%	
Write-in	4	0.02%	
Total	16,864		

US HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES | DISTRICT 2 (vote 1)

Choice	Votes	Percent	
Steve Wilkins (DEM)	6,148	53.88%	
Renee Ellmers (REP)	4,981	43.65%	
Brian Irving (LIB)	282	2.47%	
Total	11,411		

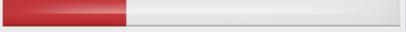
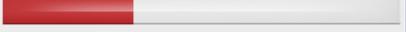
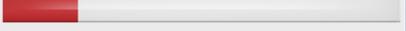
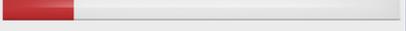
US HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES | DISTRICT 7 (vote 1)

Choice	Votes	Percent	
Mike McIntyre (DEM)	4,106	78.02%	
David Rouzer (REP)	1,157	21.98%	
Total	5,263		

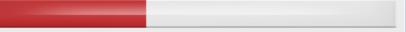
NC STATE SENATE | DISTRICT 21

Robert B. Clark III (DEM)	11,601	100.00%	
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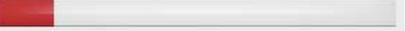
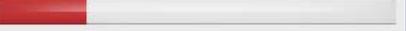
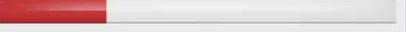
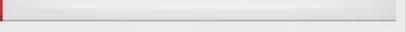
HOKE COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS (vote 2)

Choice	Votes	Percent	
James A. Leach (DEM)	9,549	31.31%	
Robert A. (Bobby) Wright (DEM)	9,960	32.66%	
John F. Harry (REP)	5,645	18.51%	
Elda M. Thacker (REP)	5,345	17.53%	
Total	30,499		

HOKE COUNTY CLERK OF SUPERIOR COURT (vote 1)

Choice	Votes	Percent	
Evelyn M. McLeod (DEM)	10,448	63.00%	
Gene Shelnut (REP)	6,137	37.00%	
Total	16,585		

HOKE COUNTY BOARD OF EDUCATION (vote 2)

Choice	Votes	Percent	
Rosa (Niecy) McAllister-McRae	7,893	35.79%	
Roosevelt McPherson	3,022	13.70%	
Betty J. Perkins	4,958	22.48%	
Hank Richards	6,052	27.44%	
Write-in	131	0.59%	
Total	22,056		

HOKE COUNTY REGISTER OF DEEDS

Onnie Dudley (DEM)	11,773	100.00%	
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DISTRICT ATTORNEY 16A

Kristy McMillan Newton (DEM)	11,916	100.00%	
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NC HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES | DISTRICT 48

Garland E. Pierce (DEM)	5,973	100.00%	
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NC HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES | DISTRICT 66

Ken Goodman (DEM)	5,615	100.00%	
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Communications News

The new Communication Center has finished being built. We are continuing with installing equipment. Phone and radio system installation is currently scheduled to begin on January 7, 2013.

We look forward to having our new Center operational soon!



Don Porter Receives Economic Development Award



Hoke County's Director of Economic Development, Don Porter, was chosen by the 100 Black Men of America, Cape Fear Region to be a recipient of their Economic Development award. Porter was chosen for this award because of his work in the promotion of business and economic development in our community.

The 100 Black Men of America, Inc. is a national service organization whose goals are to make a direct impact on the lives of our youth through mentoring, economic development, health and wellness and education. Since the inception of this great organization, it has given hope and opportunity to over 120,000 youths across

the nation. In our region, they have given over \$100,000 in scholarships to youth aspiring to attend college. Their commitment is to the advancement of youth by developing leaders for tomorrow.

Congratulations to Don Porter for receiving this wonderful honor!

Solid Waste Information

We are currently looking for our third source for recycling electronics in less than two years. We continue to receive too many of the things that recyclers do not want. We ask that those bringing electronics for recycling do not strip out all the valuable parts and pieces, and bring the remainder to us. If this continues we face the possi-

bility of much higher costs to the County, as well as the customer.

With the holidays drawing near we remind everyone of the following closures:

The Transfer Station and ALL Convenience Sites will be **closed Thursday, November 22nd and Friday, November 23rd** in

observance of Thanksgiving. The convenience sites will re-open on Saturday, November 24th and the Transfer Station will re-open Monday, November 26th.

The Transfer Station and all Convenience Sites will **close Monday, December 24th and Tuesday, December 25th** in obser-

vance of Christmas. All facilities will reopen on Wednesday, December 26th.

We are hopeful that the new convenience site in the Scurlock community will be ready for operations by the end of December. This is, of course, contingent on favorable weather conditions.

It's 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 2013 between January 2 and January 31, 2013.

Hoke County has a permanent listing system for real property. Personal property (ex: mobile homes, boats, airplanes, non-licensed vehicles, multi-year tagged trailers, farm and business equipment) must be listed in January each year. Failure to list during the

month of January will result in a 10% late listing penalty. Personal Property is listed at the Tax office located at 227 N Main St, Raeford. Businesses may request an extension of time for listing. The request must be in writing and show a good cause. Requests must be received by January 31, 2013.

Any additions or improvements made to your real property must also be listed with the Assessor's office. A building permit does not fulfill this requirement. It is the owner's responsibility to notify the tax office of any improvements. This in-

cludes but is not limited to additions, remodeling, structures removed, swimming pools, storage buildings, carports, etc.

All Exemption or Exclusion applications are due no later than January 31, 2013 with the exception of the Elderly/Disability exclusions.

The Elderly/Disabled exclusion and the Veteran Disability exclusion applications will be accepted until June 1, 2013. The income limit for the Elderly/Disabled exclusion for 2013 is \$28,100.

Present use applications are also due no later than January 31, 2013.



For more information, visit the Hoke County Website, www.hokecounty.net, choose Tax Office under Departments. 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.

New Addition to our Staff:

We would like to welcome Gary Culp as a Tax Appraiser in the Assessor's office.

Hoke County License Plate Agency

The biggest change going on with the License Plate Agencies of North Carolina is in regards to House Bill 989, which affects vehicles with permanent plates. This new law requires all currently-issued permanent plates to be cancelled and re-issued under new eligibility rules by December 31, 2012.

In the past, these permanent plates have been issued to organizations including, but not limited to, the police and sheriff departments, all ambulances and fire trucks, rescue vehicles, schools, buses, group homes and churches. Under the new law, churches and group homes, as well as a few others,

which currently have the permanent plates will no longer qualify and will, therefore, be required to obtain their new plates at the standard plate cost by the end of December. Those organizations which still qualify will be paying a one-time replacement fee of \$6.00. The new permanent plates will be

orange and black, rather than silver and black.

The Hoke County License Plate Agency is located at 520 W. Donaldson Ave., Raeford, NC, 28376 and is open Monday through Friday, from 9:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. We look forward to serving you!

Hoke County Continues to Grow

Hoke County is said to be one of the fastest growing counties in the state of North Carolina. Building has been steady over the past two years. Listed is the total number of "new"

residential homes constructed. Building remains consistent.



Building Permits (New Residential Construction)

November 2010—
October 2011

TOTAL: 388

Building Permits (New Residential Construction)

November 2011—
October 2012

TOTAL: 391

Health News & Events

Department:

Hoke County Health Department Board of Health approved a no tobacco use within fifty (50) feet from all door entrance and exits of the building policy overwhelmingly; at their monthly meeting held on **September 10, 2012**.

On **July 13th** the Hoke

County Health Department Host a Motivational Interviewing Training for Hoke County Health department Staff as well as its partnering agencies. The goal of this ongoing training is to equip participants with the tools to help them induce positive change outcomes for their clients.

Hoke County Health Educators attended the annual North Carolina Society For Public Health (NC SOHE) conference in Ashville NC on **October 11th to 12th**. The objective of this conference was to encourage public health educators in the state of North Carolina to think about health education on a global scale.



Community Outreach:

On **October 17, 2012**, the Hoke County Health Department hosted their annual Maternity Fair. The goal of this event is to educate and connect new or expecting mothers with available resources in an effort to improve health outcomes for both moth-

ers and babies.

On **October 25th**, the Hoke County Health Department and the Hoke County Domestic Violence and Sexual Assault Center teamed up to educate parents at the Hoke County Head Start Center. About 25 parents were informed about "The Impact of Domestic Violence on Children".

On **November 3rd**, the Hoke County Health Department hosted their annual Diabetes Health Fair; about 35 people were in attendance. Fair participants viewed educational booths and had the opportunity to network and connect with community resources that are available to them.

Hoke County Schools:

During the month of **October** and **November**, Hoke County Health Educators provided their annual adolescent health workshops at Hoke County High School. The week long workshops included the *Winner Circle* Ulva Little encouraged students in the

Foods Curriculum to think healthy when preparing meals. Each class ended with a full cooking project. The students in the Child Development curriculum had the opportunity to expand their knowledge about the consequences of having unprotected sex. The workshop ended with students taking home a *Baby Think It*

Over infant simulator over a weekend.

Likewise, Cornelia Murchison, Health Educator was also invited to Sandhoke Early College to be their guest speaker at their annual freshmen seminar students were educated on "*Understanding What is a Healthy Relationship?*" The goal of this



topic was to give students the ability to recognize unhealthy relationship behavior and what they can do to not become a victim of dating violence.

Hoke County Animal Shelter

The Hoke County Animal Control/Shelter has been very busy since the last newsletter. We have been reaching out to the public to raise awareness about adoptions through our Facebook page and it has been paying off. Many homeless pets of Hoke County are finding their

forever homes, but the sad fact is that many more are always coming in. Spaying and neutering your pets is the only way to help stop the pet overpopulation problem.

We recently had a Halloween Costume Contest that was a lot of fun. Residents were asked to submit photos

of their pets dressed up for Halloween. We were rather surprised by some of the submissions. We had a pig dressed up as a pumpkin, a goat dress up as an Indian and our first prize winner was Stella, a Great Dane that was adopted from us a few years ago.



For about 4 years now the shelter has been doing a big Thanksgiving dinner for all of the animals at the shelter. Each year it gets bigger and better. This year rather than having it on Thanksgiving it will be held on November 21st at 2:00pm at the shelter so that everyone can attend. We are inviting the public to come out and help us feed the animals. You can even bring a dish for the animals



too! If you do make a dish please make it bland with no spices, butter, gravy etc. We don't want to give the animals an upset stomach. The picture attached is of last year's dinner with the animals.

With Christmas right around the corner shelter staff will be placing a box in the office of the shelter for toys and treats. If you would like to give a homeless pet a toy or treats for Christmas you can drop it at the shelter anytime during business hours. Since these wonderful animals will not have a home for the holidays we want to make it as special as we can for them.

We hope to see you all at some of our upcoming events and we also hope you have a wonderful holiday season.



Hoke Reading and Literacy Council

Does your child struggle with reading?

Does your child attend Hoke County Schools?

**HOKE READING/
LITERACY COUNCIL
CAN HELP**

Please call
910-875-2145
to schedule testing



Christmas Open House

Monday
December 3, 2012
5:00-7:00p.m.

Hoke Reading/Literacy
Council
125 W Elwood Avenue,
Raeford, NC



Hoke DSS Gets Musical for Its 3rd Annual Spirit Week Celebration

The 3rd Annual Spirit Week celebration at the Hoke County Department of Social Services had visits from the likes of Marilyn Monroe, Dorothy and some Carolina Tarheels just to name a few. Hoke DSS Spirit Week 2012 was music themed and featured a different dress up category each day to include Wacky Tacky Day, 60's Day, Dress to Impress Day, Sports Day and Character Day. Coworkers made coin votes for their outfits of choice and the participant with the



most votes at the end of the day wins. The participant with the highest total money votes for the week is the winner of the Spirit Week competition. This year's grand prize winner was Sheffie Turner (pictured right as Dorothy). As an NCSSA fundraiser, the stakes are pretty high

with the grand prize as a \$50 Visa gift card. Because all prizes come directly from the money generated, this fundraiser is a win-win for everyone. "We always look forward to Spirit Week. It is fun to see everyone, including our director, participate," states one employee. Spirit Week is

one of the many fundraisers that allow the Department of Social Services to give back to the public through a variety of donations. As a morale booster, Spirit Week generates lots of excitement and anticipation to see just how creative employees can be. From face paint to hairspray, markers to leg warmers, participants pull out all the stops to vie for the top prize. Spirit Week 2012 was the best so far and with expectations high, the sky is the limit for next year's competitors.

Congratulations to... Rebecca Brown!

The Hoke County Board of Social Services at the October 26 Board Meeting presented a certificate to Rebecca Brown. Rebecca is being recognized as employee of the month for November. Her dedication to

the Department of Social Services is shown through her work and willingness to assist and help others. Rebecca takes on a lead role in completing tasks and displays initiative when she sees a need in the agency.

Rebecca has been with the agency two years.

L to R: Social Services Director, Della Sweat; Income Maintenance Caseworker, Rebecca Brown; Social Services Board Chair, Gwen Booker.



NC FAST

North Carolina Families Accessing Services through Technology is a program designed to improve the way the Department of Health and Human Services and County Departments of Social

Services provide services and benefits to the people of North Carolina.

The implementation of this new program for Food and Nutrition Services will be the week-

end of November 10, 2012. The Hoke County Department of Social Services is working diligently to provide assistance as timely as possible through this transition.



November is National Adoption Month!

President Clinton first declared November as National Adoption Month in 1995. Since that time, national and statewide efforts to increase awareness of the tens of thousands of children (across the US) in foster care waiting for permanent homes has grown considerably. Foster Care Adoption rates have steadily increased over the years, with foster parents adopting many of the children they have cared for. In 2011, nearly 51,000 children were adopted from the foster care system across the US.

In 2010, there were approximately 2,400 children in foster care in North Carolina waiting to be adopted. In Hoke County, we currently do not have any children waiting for adoption. Fortunately, the children in Hoke County that have needed permanent homes through foster care adoption have found their permanent home

through their foster parent or a relative. Sadly though, many of the children waiting for a permanent home in North Carolina and across the US never find one and they age out of foster care at the age of 18. There are hundreds of teens in foster care in our state waiting for a family yet teens are usually the ones that get left behind in the system. Teens need permanent families just as much as infants and toddlers do. All children have a right to a safe, permanent family.

Myths about foster care adoption:

Myth: It's expensive to adopt.

Fact: Foster care adoption is generally free of charge, with costs covered by the child's resident county department of social services.

*

Myth: Foster children are

bad and have too many problems.

Fact: The vast majority of children in foster care are in care because of things their parents failed to do, not because of something the child did.

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Myth: You have to be married to adopt.

Fact: You can be single or married to adopt a child from foster care.

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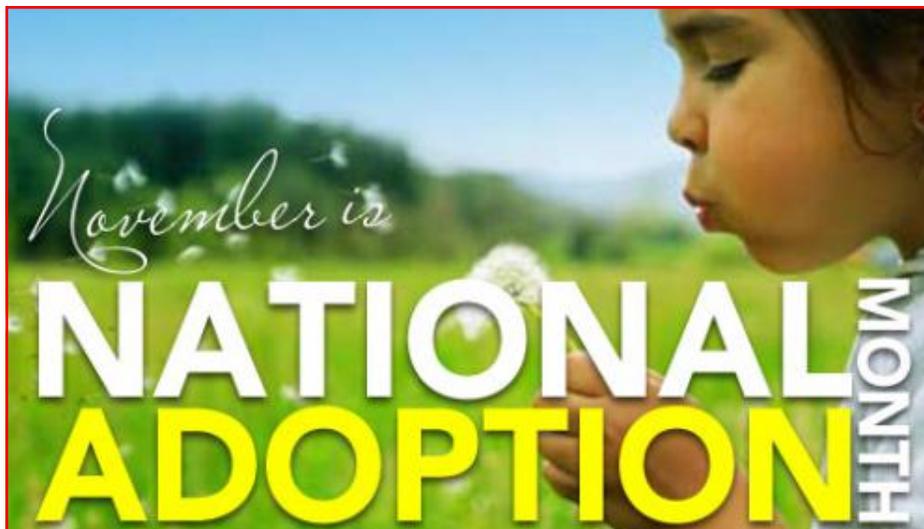
Myth: You can't adopt a relative or a child you fostered.

Fact: Relative and foster parent adoptions are strongly encouraged.

To learn more about Myths and Facts of Adoption, how to adopt a foster child, and see children available for adoption through the foster care system, visit www.adoptUSkids.org, a

service of the Children's Bureau, a part of the US Department of Health and Human Services. www.adoptUSkids.org provides a variety of adoption information for families interested in adopting children from the foster care system. The website contains links to The State of North Carolina, Department of Health & Human Services website regarding the adoption of foster children in North Carolina.

Please contact your local county department of social services foster care/adoption program for additional information on fostering or adopting a child in foster care. In Hoke County, please contact April Locklear at 878-1927 or alocklear@hokecounty.org or Tammy Waddell at 878-1989 or twaddell@hokecounty.org or Kristi Pigford at 878-4048 or kpigford@hokecounty.org.



Hoke County Senior Services

Halloween has come and gone, but some great photos linger on. What an incredible month October turned out to be for Hoke County Senior Services. On October 31 2012, Senior Services held its Octoberfest, from 10:00 am to 1:00 pm at Hoke County

Senior Services (Old Armory) located at 423 East Central Ave., Raeford, NC. Seniors from all sites gather for the Octoberfest, which featured senior's pumpkin carving, and masks decorating. The staff was invited to dress up in their favorite costumes. However,

the staff was not the only ones who dressed up for Halloween a few seniors also showed up in their own costume. The guest speakers invited for the Octoberfest was from division of services for the blind mini center for individual with vision loss.

Upcoming Events

November

The seniors will be celebrating their **November Thanksgiving Blast** on the **27th** at the Senior Center 10am to 1pm.

December

The appreciation celebration for the SHIP volunteers will be held on **December 13th** at the Senior Center 3pm to 5pm.

The seniors Christmas Blessing celebration will be **December the 20th** at the Senior Center 10am to 1pm.

The employees Christmas celebration and appreciation will be held **December 21st** at the Senior Center



Hoke County's FOG Program

Fats Oils and Grease



Why are Fats, Oil and Grease a Problem?

Grease hardens at room temperature and can cause blockages in home plumbing pipes and even overflows in your home or yard. These substances also cause clogging in the Public Utilities Collection System.

Where does grease come from?

FOG is produced from cooking in your home, apartment, restaurants, schools, churches, condominiums, shopping centers, hospitals, hotels, or anywhere food is prepared. Grease is a by-product of cooking and comes from things like:

- meat fats
- shortening
- lard
- baking goods
- butter and margarine
- cooking oil
- dairy products
- food scrapes
- sauces

FOG Questions:

Please call Stephanie Hall
at (910) 878-1251

Hoke County Public Works

423 East Central Ave
Raeford, NC 28376
Phone (910) 875-6704
Fax (910) 904-1640
hokecounty.org

Why should you care?

Grease related problems can cause sewage backups and overflows that are messy, costly and a potential threat to your health and the environment. That is why we want to help customers stop problems associated with grease before they occur.

What you can do to help prevent clogs and sewer overflows:

- Never pour FOG into sinks, toilets, external drains, or storm sewers.
- Scrape grease and food scrapes from dishes and cookware into trash or garbage can.
- Place strainers in your sink to catch food scraps and then throw the food in the trash.
- Don't put grease into your garbage disposal.
- Wipe cookware and dishware with a paper towel to remove FOG before putting them into the sink or dishwasher.

Talk with friends and neighbors about the grease problem so that the community is aware of the risk.

From the Hoke County IT Department: Securing Your Wireless Network

Wireless networks are not as secure as the traditional “wired” networks, but you can minimize the risk on your wireless network (at home or at work) by following the tips below.

How Does it Work?

The standard setup for a wireless network requires two components: a Wireless Access Point (WAP) and a computer with a wireless network adapter. Properly configuring a wireless device can be challenging and the steps will vary depending on the manufacturer.

The WAP connects to your high-speed Internet connection and/or your internal network. It provides the ability to use a computing device (copier, printer, etc.) without being constrained by the distance of a wire. A wireless network adapter, used for transmitting and receiving information, may be required for each device you intend to connect to a WAP. The wireless network adapter is usually built into laptop computers, while it is an add-on component for other devices.

Tips for Securing Your Wireless Network

Enable Encryption

It is critical that every wireless network has encryption enabled. Encryption scrambles the data in a way that if your signal is intercepted there is reduced risk of someone being able to eavesdrop or monitor your communications. There are several standards of encryption common to most WAPs. Newer wireless access points include Wi-Fi Protected Access (WPA) and Wi-Fi Protected Access 2 (WPA2). WPA2 is stronger and the preferred method of encryption. If WPA2 is not available, it is recommended that you use WPA. If your network only allows for WEP (Wired Equivalency Privacy), an older standard of encryption, it is recommended that you replace your wireless network with one that supports WPA2 or WPA.

Change the Default Password

Change the default password that comes with your WAP. The default passwords used by manufacturers are well known to the hacking community. Be sure to use a strong password, that is at least eight characters in length and include a mix of upper and lower case letters, as well as special characters.

Change SSID Name

The Service Set Identifier (SSID) is the name of your wireless network. Default SSIDs are well known—often the name of the manufacturer—or easy to guess. Change the SSID name to something unique and be careful not to use a name that freely discloses information. For example, avoid using your family name. Avoid descriptive or functional names as well, such as “Payroll” or “Accounting” since this would advertise an attractive target for an attacker.

Turn Off SSID Broadcasting

By turning off SSID Broadcasting, your WAP does not advertise its presence. It is similar to having an unlisted telephone number. This is a way to reduce the visibility of your network to others within the range of your WAP. The only way to connect to a WAP with SSID Broadcasting turned off is to know the SSID name and password.

Use MAC Filtering on Your WAP

The MAC (Media Access Control) address is the unique ID assigned to your computer's wireless adapter. It is referred to as the computer's "physical address." Enabling MAC filtering on your WAP allows you to designate and restrict which computers can connect to your WAP. If the computer's address is not listed, a wireless connection cannot be made to the WAP.

To look up a MAC address on a Windows computer, select "Start" then "Run" and type "cmd"; then a new window will open; type "ipconfig /all" and press the enter key. A number of attributes will be displayed. The MAC address is identified as the "Physical Address."

For a MAC Operating System, click on "System Preferences"; select "Network"; select "WiFi"; click on "Advanced"; in the tool bar that appears, click on "Hardware." The MAC address will be displayed on the first line.

Update the Software/Firmware in Your WAP

Contact the manufacturer for directions and guidelines on how to update the software and firmware in your WAP. If the option is available, enable the auto-update feature on your WAP.

For More Information:**PC World: How to Use Your Wireless Network**

http://www.pcworld.com/article/130330/how_to_secure_your_wireless_network.html

OnGuard Online: Securing Your Wireless Network

<http://onguardonline.gov/articles/0013-securing-your-wireless-network>



A Summary of Veterans Affairs Benefits

The U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs offers a wide range of benefits for our Nation's Veterans, service members, and their families. You may be eligible for VA benefits if you are a Veteran, Veteran's dependent, Surviving spouse, child or parent of a deceased Veteran, or a uniformed service member.

Compensation: VA can pay you monthly compensation if you are at least 10% disabled as a result of your military service.

Pension: You can receive a monthly pension if you are a wartime Veteran with limited income, and you are permanently and totally disabled or at least 65 years old.

Health Care: VA provides a number of health care services, such as hospital, outpatient medical, dental, pharmacy and prosthetic services; domiciliary, nursing home, and community based residential care; sexual trauma counseling; specialized health care for women Veterans; health and rehabilitation programs for homeless Veterans; readjustment counseling; alcohol and drug dependency treatment; and medical evaluation for disorders associated with military service in the Gulf War, or exposure to Agent Orange, radiation, and other environmental hazards. VA provides free health care for Veterans who served in a theater of combat operations after November 11, 1998, for any illness possibly related to their service in that theater.

Vocational Rehabilitation & Employment: VA provides assistance to Veterans with service-connected disabilities to prepare for, obtain, and maintain suitable employment. For Veterans with serious service-connected disabilities, VA also offers services to improve their ability to live as independently as possible. Assistance to Veterans may be provided in the form of job search, vocational evaluation, career exploration, vocational training, educational training and supportive rehabilitation services.

Education & Training: VA pays benefits to eligible Veterans and service members while they are in an approved education or training program.

Home Loans: VA offers a number of home loan services to eligible Veterans, some military personnel, and certain surviving spouses.

Life Insurance: 1) Service members' Group Life Insurance (SGLI) provides coverage up to \$400,000 for service members. Coverage ends 120 days after discharge, but can be extended for up to two years if the member is totally disabled. 2) Service members' Group Life Insurance Traumatic Injury Protection (TSGLI) is an automatic feature of SGLI that provides payments of up to \$100,000 for service members who suffer losses such as amputations, blindness, and paraplegia, due to traumatic injuries. 3) Veterans Group Life Insurance (VGLI) allows service members to convert their SGLI to lifetime renewable term coverage. VGLI must be applied for within one year and 120 days of discharge. If applied for within 120 days of discharge, there are no good health requirements. 4) Service-Disabled Veterans Insurance (S-DVI) provides up to \$10,000 of coverage for service connected veterans. If totally disabled, they are eligible for an additional \$20,000. Veterans must apply within two years of being rated service connected for a new condition. 5) Veterans' Mortgage Life Insurance (VMLI) provides coverage of up to \$90,000 for severely disabled Veterans and service members who have received a specially adapted housing grant from VA.

Dependency and Indemnity Compensation (DIC) is payable to certain survivors of service members who died during active service; Veterans who died from service-related disabilities; and certain Veterans who were being paid 100% VA disability compensation at time of death.

Death Pension is payable to some surviving spouses and children of deceased wartime Veterans. The benefit is based on financial need.

Parents' DIC is payable to some surviving parents. The benefit is based on financial need. VA Civilian Health and Medical Program (CHAMPVA) shares the cost of medical services for eligible dependents and survivors of certain Veterans.

Dependents & Survivors Education & Training: Some family members of disabled or deceased Veterans are eligible for education and training benefits.

Home Loans: Certain surviving spouses may be eligible for this benefit.

Burial: VA offers certain benefits and services to honor our Nation's deceased Veterans.

- 1) Headstones and Markers: VA can furnish a monument to mark the grave of an eligible Veteran.
- 2) Presidential Memorial Certificate (PMC): VA can provide a PMC for eligible recipients.
- 3) Burial Flag: VA can provide an American flag to drape an eligible Veteran's casket.
- 4) Reimbursement of Burial Expenses: Generally, VA can pay a burial allowance of \$2,000 for Veterans who die of service-related causes. For certain other Veterans, VA can pay \$300 for burial and funeral expenses and \$300 for a burial plot.
- 5) Burial in a VA National Cemetery: Most Veterans and some dependents can be buried in a VA national cemetery.

A Summary of Veterans Benefits, Pamphlet 21-00-1, dated April 2008, US Department of Veterans Affairs

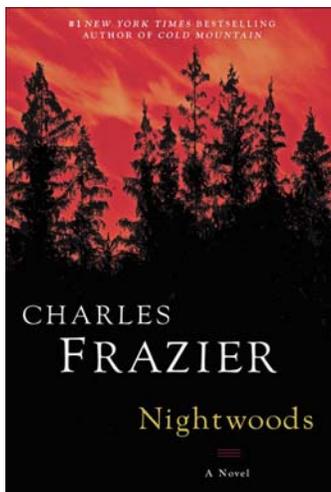
For more information about specific benefits, visit the County Veteran Service Office or call (910) 875-2147. Note: Effective December 3rd, the operating hours will be Monday, Wednesday and Friday from 8:00 AM to 1:00 PM; Tuesday and Thursday from 1:00 to 6:00 PM.



Hoke County Public Library's Halloween Carnival a Success!



Friends Book Club to Meet Friday, November 30



The Friends of the Library will hold their monthly Book Club meeting on Friday, November 30 from 11:30 am to 12:30 pm in the Library History Room. The book to be discussed is *Nightwoods* by Charles Frazier, a North Carolina native who was born in Asheville & currently resides near Raleigh. He has degrees from UNC-

Chapel Hill, Appalachian State University & the University of South Carolina. His first novel, *Cold Mountain*, was made into a movie starring Nicole Kidman and Jude Law. *Nightwoods*, his third book, is set in a small-town in North Carolina in the early 1960s. In it, he tells the story of Luce, a young woman who inherits her mur-

dered sister's mute & troubled twins.

On December 28, the Friends Book Club will discuss Jerry Bledsoe's *Angel Doll*.

Dates & books for 2013 will be announced soon.

Volunteers Needed for Homework Central



Hoke County Public Library's Homework Central has been a part of our school-year programs for the last few years, and is always extremely popular with local students and their parents. Children & teens in grades K-12 often need a hand in understanding

and completing their homework assignments, and the Library is the perfect place for them to go for help.

However, the Homework Central program depends on volunteers, members of the community with the skills & abilities to assist stu-

dents in subjects ranging from basic math to algebra, spelling, geography and science. Contact Lynette Dial or Natalie Spencer, to volunteer, and for more information. Call 875-2502 or email lynette.dial@srls.info or

nspencer@hokecounty.org.

NEW Library Catalogue

Go to www.srls.info and click "Library Catalog" to see the eye-catching "Book River", then click on "My Account" & login to manage your account online from home or work! You can even download a free app from Android Market or

iTunes to do the same from your mobile phone! There's also a special Kid's Catalog — check it out today!



Download from Android Market



Download from iTunes

Hoke County Cooperative Extension

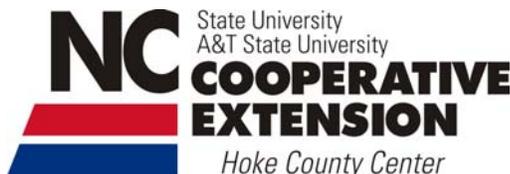
The Hoke County Cooperative Extension partnered with the Hoke County Master Gardeners to host a local foods dinner, "Sunday Supper Local Style," on October 7, 2012. The dinner educated the community on the availability of fresh, local foods available to them from growers in the

county. More than seventy people were in attendance. The menu consisted of local fruits and vegetables from the farmers of Hoke County. The meat was donated from Moore Brothers Beef in Maxton. We would like to thank each of you that took the time out of your busy schedule to join us for the din-

ner. The proceeds from the meal will go toward local foods programming activities at the Extension Center.

The Cooperative Extension staff and volunteers conducted Farm Field Days at Edens Farm on October 17, 18 and 19. This was an agricultural aware-

ness activity for all the third graders in Hoke County with nearly 600 youth participating. This event educated our youth on the importance of agriculture in Hoke County through 10 educational stations on various topics including agricultural production and products.



FREE PESTICIDE COLLECTION DAY

Do you have pesticides at your home or farm that you no longer need or use?

If your answer is 'yes', then you'll be interested in the Hoke County Pesticide Collection Day on Thursday, November 29, 2012.

The Hoke County Extension Office, in cooperation with the NC Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services' Pesticide Disposal Assistance Program, a NON-Regulatory and Cost-Free program, will be offering this Pesticide Collection Day for residents in Hoke County and all of the surrounding North Carolina counties.

Nearly all pesticide products will be accepted at this amnesty collection

event, including banned and outdated pesticides. For pesticides with unreadable or missing labels, please contact the Cooperative Extension Office for instructions. Please save any portion of the label to help identify the material so you can be assisted with disposal. Unknown materials cannot be accepted.

For pressurized pesticide gas cylinders or containers greater than 5 gallons in size, please contact the Extension Office **BEFORE** the Collection Day for special instructions and information. For tips on transporting the pesticides safely to the Collection event, contact the Extension Office.

For more information contact Keith Walters, County Extension Director at (910) 875-3461. The

collection will be from 10:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. at the Hoke County Transfer Station located at 700 C. C. Steele Road off of Doc Brown Road in Raeford on Thursday, November 29, 2012.

4-H Youth Development

The State 4-H Council Conference was held November 3-4, 2012 at the Jane S. McKimmon Center at North Carolina State University in Raleigh, NC. Four Hoke County 4-Hers attended the conference and participated in many workshops, fun activities as well as learning opportunities. Workshops were conducted on leadership, citizenship and team building. The theme for this conference was "The Revolution of Responsibility."

The 4-H Life Skills Advi-

sory Board met on Thursday November 8, 2012 at 4:00 pm. This meeting was focused on the changes we made for the last part of the year, being able to contact parents and talk about the progress that we have made working with the students on continuing bases. Trying to get parents more involved with their child daily and enforcing what is being taught to them through 4-H Life Skills program. The Family and Consumer Science Agent, Shirley Smith also provided information on food safety.

For more information on these or other programs you can contact the Hoke County Center of the North Carolina Cooperative Extension at (910) 875-3461 or stop the office at 116 West Prospect Avenue in Raeford.

Seniors Travel to Niagara Falls

Hoke County Senior Citizens enjoyed a 7 Day/6 Night trip to Niagara Falls/Canada September 30 - October 6, 2012. The participants enjoyed a wonderful tour of Castle Loma, one of Canada's most famous castles. They also enjoyed a cruise on the Maid of the Mist with an awe-inspiring view of the mighty Niagara Falls. Other sights was a visit to the Welland Canals Centre to view

ships on the canal; We passed through picturesque Wine Country and Canada's "Fruit Belt" with lunch in Niagara-on-the-Lake, known as one of North America's prettiest little towns and the site of the War of 1812. We also enjoyed delicious meals; fine hotel accommodations and our final visit was to the Carnegie Museum of Natural History. There were a total of 47 participants.

Hoke County participants attended the annual North Carolina State Fair, Tuesday, October 16, 2012 in Raleigh. There were a total of 45 participants enjoying a day of fun and fellowship.

Saturday, December 15, 2012, Parks & Recreation is sponsoring a trip to Duplin County Winery for a Christmas dinner and show. We have a few slots still available if anyone is

interested and the total cost is \$73.00 per person. Call 875-4035 for more information.

The annual trip for 2013 is to Dallas-Fort Worth, Texas. This trip will be May 14-22 with the first deposit of \$75.00 per person due December 31, 2012. The total cost is \$659.00 per person (double occupancy). Call 875-4035 for more information.



Parks and Recreation Programs

Bowling every Thursday at 1pm (free transportation provided by HATS)

Zumba every Tuesday & Thursday from 5:30 -



6:30 for \$30.00 per month

Bingo 2nd Wednesday of each month at Public Library from 10 am - noon (free)

Hoke County Parks & Recreation

Presents...

Breakfast With

SANTA

CHILDREN 6 AND UNDER, ALONG WITH THEIR PARENTS, ARE INVITED TO JOIN US FOR A DELIGHTFUL MORNING BREAKFAST WITH SANTA AND HIS ELVES. PARENTS WILL HAVE THE OPPORTUNITY TO TAKE PICTURES OF THEIR CHILD WITH SANTA.

Location: 423 E. Central Ave
L. E. McLaughlin Building

Date: December 8, 2012

Time: 9:00am-11:00am

Price: \$1.00 per child & \$3.00 per Adult

Tickets: Tickets go on sale from NOVEMBER 12, 2012 TO NOVEMBER 30, 2012 Must purchase tickets in advance.

****Building Space is limited, so you must register to be able to attend****

Contact: Hoke County Parks & Recreation
910-875-4035

Hoke County Parks & Recreation

WINTER REGISTRATION

Basketball & Wrestling

Basketball Ages- 5-15yrs old

Wrestling Ages-6-11yrs old

DATE- NOVEMBER 5TH-NOVEMBER 30, 2012
MONDAY-FRIDAY 8:00AM-5:00PM

LOCATION- 423 E. CENTRAL AVE.
L.E MCLAUCHLIN BUILDING

COST- \$30.00

****LATE REGISTRATION FEE****

After December 1, 2012

Additional \$5.00

If Space is Available

Contact- Hoke County Parks & Recreation

910-875-4035

Christmas Arty Party



Where: Hoke County Public Library



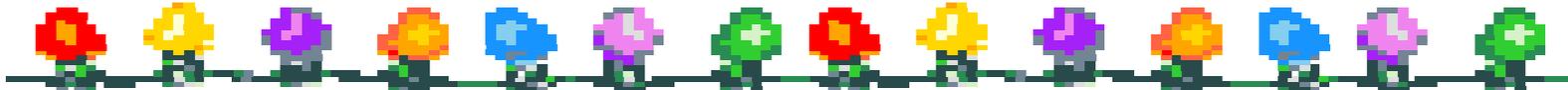
Conference Room

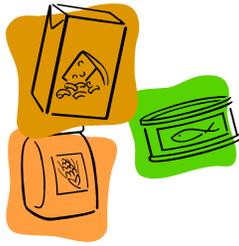
When: December 19th from 4:00-6:00pm

Children ages 3-10 years

Kids, bring in your small gifts and we'll help you do
the gift wrap!

Each child will also go home with a handmade
ornament for their tree.





HOKE COUNTY PUBLIC LIBRARY FOOD FOR FINES MONTH DECEMBER 1-31, 2012



Return your overdue books
during the month of December,
and 'pay' your overdue fines
with a donation of nonperishable food
or personal care items for
HCCAC – Hoke County Coalition Against
Homelessness**

HCCAC accepts cans, jars, boxes or bags of non-perishable food, complete as sold, as well as personal care items. Your donations may include:

- Dried Beans or Peas
- Pasta
- Macaroni & Cheese
- Canned Fruit or Vegetables
- Canned or Powdered Soup
- Peanut Butter
- Jelly & Jam
- Toilet Tissue
- Facial Tissue
- Lotion
- Soap
- Dish Detergent
- Laundry Detergent
- Toothbrushes
- Toothpaste
- Hand Sanitizer
- Feminine Products
- Personal Wipes

****Fines waived ONLY for overdue books, audiobooks, kits or periodicals returned between December 1 and December 31, 2012****

**Replacement costs for lost or damaged items are not included.
Overdue fines for videos are not included.**

**HOKE COUNTY PUBLIC LIBRARY
334 N. Main St., Raeford
910-875-2502
www.srls.info**

Thanksgiving Safety

The kitchen is the heart of the home, especially at Thanksgiving. Kids love to be involved in holiday preparations. Safety in the kitchen is important, especially on Thanksgiving Day when there is a lot of activity and people at home.

- » Stay in the kitchen when you are cooking on the stovetop so you can keep an eye on the food.
- » Stay in the home when cooking your turkey and check on it frequently.
- » Keep children away from the stove. The stove will be hot and kids should stay 3 feet away.
- » Make sure kids stay away from hot food and liquids. The steam or splash from vegetables, gravy or coffee could cause serious burns.
- » Keep the floor clear so you don't trip over kids, toys, pocketbooks or bags.
- » Keep knives out of the reach of children.
- » Be sure electric cords from an electric knife, coffee maker, plate warmer or mixer are not dangling off the counter within easy reach of a child.
- » Keep matches and utility lighters out of the reach of children — up high in a locked cabinet.
- » Never leave children alone in room with a lit a candle.
- » Make sure your smoke alarms are working. Test them by pushing the test button.



Your Source for SAFETY Information

NFPA Public Education Division • 1 Batterymarch Park, Quincy, MA 02169

Did you know?



Thanksgiving is the leading day of the year for home fires involving cooking equipment.

Have activities that keep **kids out of the kitchen** during this busy time. Games, puzzles or books can keep them busy. Kids can get involved in Thanksgiving preparations with recipes that can be done **outside** the kitchen.

www.nfpa.org/education

Winter Holiday Safety

Winter holidays are a time for families and friends to get together. But that also means a greater risk for fire. Following a few simple tips will ensure a happy and fire-safe holiday season.

HOLIDAY DECORATING

- » Be careful with holiday decorations. Choose decorations that are flame resistant or flame retardant.
- » Keep lit candles away from decorations and other things that can burn.
- » Some lights are only for indoor or outdoor use, but not both.
- » Replace any string of lights with worn or broken cords or loose bulb connections. Connect no more than three strands of mini light sets and a maximum of 50 bulbs for screw-in bulbs. Read manufacturer's instructions for number of LED strands to connect.
- » Use clips, not nails, to hang lights so the cords do not get damaged.
- » Keep decorations away from windows and doors.

HOLIDAY ENTERTAINING

- » Test your smoke alarms and tell guests about your home fire escape plan.
- » Keep children and pets away from lit candles.
- » Keep matches and lighters up high in a locked cabinet.
- » Stay in the kitchen when cooking on the stovetop.
- » Ask smokers to smoke outside. Remind smokers to keep their smoking materials with them so young children do not touch them.
- » Provide large, deep ashtrays for smokers. Wet cigarette butts with water before discarding.



Before Heading Out or to Bed

Blow out lit candles when you leave the room or go to bed. **Turn off** all light strings and decorations before leaving home or going to bed.

FACTS

- ! **Almost half** of all home decoration fires are started by candles.
- ! **Half** of holiday decoration fires happen because decorations are placed too close to a heat source.



Your Source for SAFETY Information

NFPA Public Education Division • 1 Batterymarch Park, Quincy, MA 02169

www.nfpa.org/education

Candle Safety

Candles may be pretty to look at but they are a cause of home fires — and home fire deaths. Remember, a candle is an open flame, which means that it can easily ignite anything that can burn.



"CANDLE WITH CARE"

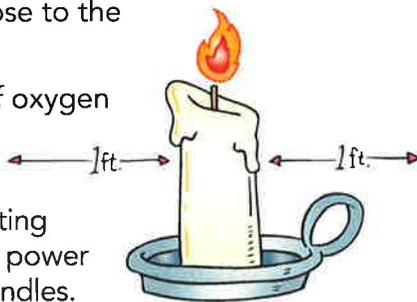
- » Blow out all candles when you leave the room or go to bed. Avoid the use of candles in the bedroom and other areas where people may fall asleep.
- » Keep candles at least 12 inches away from anything that can burn.

Think about using flameless candles in your home. They look and smell like real candles.



IF YOU DO BURN CANDLES, make sure that you...

- » Use candle holders that are sturdy, and won't tip over easily.
- » Put candle holders on a sturdy, uncluttered surface.
- » Light candles carefully. Keep your hair and any loose clothing away from the flame.
- » Don't burn a candle all the way down — put it out before it gets too close to the holder or container.
- » Never use a candle if oxygen is used in the home.
- » Have flashlights and battery-powered lighting ready to use during a power outage. Never use candles.



Candles and Kids

Never leave a child alone in a room with a burning candle. Keep matches and lighters up high and out of children's reach, in a locked cabinet.



FACTS

- ! On average, a candle fire in the home is reported to a U.S. fire department every **40** minutes.
- ! More than **one-third** of home candle fires started in the bedroom.
- ! More than half of all candle fires start when things that can burn are too close to the candle.



Your Source for SAFETY Information

NFPA Public Education Division • 1 Batterymarch Park, Quincy, MA 02169

www.nfpa.org/education

Christmas Tree Safety



As you deck the halls this holiday season, be fire smart. A small fire that spreads to a Christmas tree can grow large very quickly.



PICKING THE TREE

- » Choose a tree with fresh, green needles that do not fall off when touched.



PLACING THE TREE

- » Before placing the tree in the stand, cut 1–2" from the base of the trunk.
- » Make sure the tree is at least three feet away from any heat source, like fireplaces, radiators, candles, heat vents or lights.
- » Make sure the tree is not blocking an exit.
- » Add water to the tree stand. Be sure to add water daily.

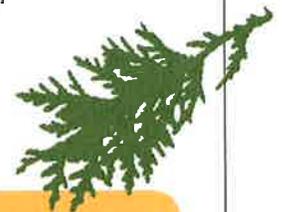


LIGHTING THE TREE

- » Use lights that have the label of an independent testing laboratory. Some lights are only for indoor or outdoor use.
- » Replace any string of lights with worn or broken cords or loose bulb connections. Connect no more than three strands of mini string sets and a maximum of 50 bulbs for screw-in bulbs. Read manufacturer's instructions for number of LED strands to connect.
- » Never use lit candles to decorate the tree.
- » Always turn off Christmas tree lights before leaving home or going to bed.

After Christmas

Get rid of the tree after Christmas or when it is dry. Dried-out trees are a fire danger and should not be left in the home or garage, or placed outside against the home. Check with your local community to find a recycling program. Bring outdoor electrical lights inside after the holidays to prevent hazards and make them last longer.



FACTS

- ! **One** of every three home Christmas tree fires are caused by electrical problems.
- ! Although Christmas tree fires are not common, when they do occur, they have a higher chance to be deadly.
- ! A heat source too close to the tree causes **one in every five** of the fires.



Your Source for SAFETY Information

NFPA Public Education Division • 1 Batterymarch Park, Quincy, MA 02169

www.nfpa.org/education

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.

BE WARM AND SAFE THIS WINTER!

- »» 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.



FACT

Roughly half of home heating fires are reported during the months of **December, January, and February.**



Your Source for **SAFETY** Information

NFPA Public Education Division • 1 Batterymarch Park, Quincy, MA 02169

www.nfpa.org/education



Office of the Sheriff

Hoke County Sheriff's Office and Emergency Management
HUBERT A. PETERKIN, Sheriff

429 East Central Avenue
875-5111
Raeford, NC 28376
875-2034

PO Box 300
Raeford, NC 28376

Phone (910)
Fax (910)



NEWS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

From: Sheriff Hubert A. Peterkin

Hoke County

LOCAL SHERIFF OFFERS TIPS FOR SAFE SHOPPING DURING THE HOLIDAY SEASON

“The holiday season is right around the corner and shoppers are crowding malls and discount stores to buy the latest gadgets and find the best deals,” said Sheriff Peterkin of Hoke County.

But what shoppers are neglecting is their safety. According to Sheriff Peterkin “This time of year attracts more shopping-related criminal activity because of the larger crowds and the extended store hours. These factors and the usual distraction of shopping, creates a more favorable environment for petty thieves and other offenders.

The Sheriff reminds all Hoke County residents to follow these safety tips:

Shopping Safety:

- A single shopper is the best target for theft. Always shop with a friend or relative.
- When going shopping, tell someone where you are going and what time to expect you to return. Also, make sure they know what you are wearing, as well as the type of vehicle you are driving.
- Shop during daylight hours. If you shop at night, park your vehicle in a well-lit area.
- Dress casually and comfortably and avoid wearing expensive jewelry. If carrying cash, keep it in your front pocket rather than in a purse or wallet. This makes it much more difficult for a pick-pocket to remove. Also store car keys in a pants or jacket pocket. If your purse is stolen, you will still be able to drive home.
- Pay careful attention to your surroundings and avoid overloading yourself with packages. It is important to have clear visibility and freedom of motion to avoid mishaps.
- When returning to your vehicle, check around it and in the back seat. Be aware of strangers approaching you for any reason. Have your car keys in your hand to avoid spending unnecessary time unprotected from the security of your vehicle.
- If you feel uneasy returning to your vehicle alone, find a security guard and ask them to walk you to your car.

According to Sheriff Peterkin “during this time of year, busy holiday shoppers become careless and vulnerable to other crimes as well. Credit card fraud and gift card fraud are on the rise. However, taking a few preventive measures can help.”

Credit Card Fraud:

- Keep a close watch on your credit card every time you use it, and make sure you get it back as quickly as possible.
- Never write your PIN number on your credit card.
- Never leave your credit cards or receipts lying around.
- Shield your credit card number so that others around you can't copy it or capture it on a mobile telephone or other camera.
- Only carry credit cards that you absolutely need.
- Shred anything with your credit card number written on it.
- If you're planning to purchase online, make sure the web page where you enter your credit card information is secure through SSL (Secure Socket Layer). You can tell if the web page is secure by looking for the gold lock or key icon at the bottom corner of your browser window.
- If you're not comfortable submitting your information through the internet, call the seller and give them your information over the telephone. Never send your credit card information via email.
- Check the company out. Only do business with companies that provide a physical address and telephone number.
- Keep good records. Always print out a copy of any online products or services you purchase.

Gift Card Fraud:

- Never buy gift cards from online auction sites. This is a large source of gift card fraud. Many of the gift cards are stolen, counterfeit or used.
- Only buy gift cards directly from the store issuing the gift card or from a secure retailer's website.
- Don't buy gift cards off of publicly displayed racks in retail stores. Only purchase gift cards at the sales terminal from the cashier.
- Always carefully examine both the front and back of a gift card before you buy it. If you see a PIN number, ask for a different card. If the card looks like it has been tampered with in any way, put it back.
- Always ask the store cashier to scan the gift card in front of you. This will guarantee that your card is valid when you buy it and that it reflects the balance you just charged it with.
- Always keep your receipt as a proof of purchase as long as there is money stored on the gift card.
- If possible, register your gift card at the store's website
- Never give your Social Security number, date of birth or any other unneeded private information when purchasing a gift card. No reputable company will ask for this information.

In light of these problems, Sheriff Peterkin warns shoppers to be careful so that they don't become the victim of criminal activity. “Unfortunately, when shopping, people have a tendency to let their guard down,” said Sheriff Peterkin. “However, paying attention and taking precautions can help eliminate their chances of being victimized.”