

# Hoke County

# Newsletter

## Breakfast With Santa

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

On December 11 a special visitor stopped by the LE McLaughlin Building. At this time of the year it could only be Santa Claus. Santa and Mrs. Claus visited with about 50 young children to eat breakfast, help them do arts, crafts, write letters and finally have their pictures taken with everyone. Also making a special appearance was Smokey the Bear. Smokey spoke of fire place safety and forest fire safety while families are looking in the woods for that 'special tree.' Smokey also had his picture taken with the children. Smokey is sponsored by the US Forest Service and we would like to thank our Hoke County Forest Service for cre-

ating time in Smokey's busy schedule to visit with us.

The event had everything a child could want, and the big hit of the morning was the 'indoor' snow fall. Yes, Santa worked his magic and it snowed in the building. Also present were a toy soldier, a live package, a live tree and a relative of Rudolph the Red Nosed Reindeer.

This is the second year of Breakfast with Santa and we hope to continue it for many more. The event is sponsored by the Hoke County Parks and Recreation Department and supported by several volun-



teers. We would like to thank the staff, volunteers and the community for supporting this program.

We're on the web! www.hokecounty.net

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## Photography Seminar for Students

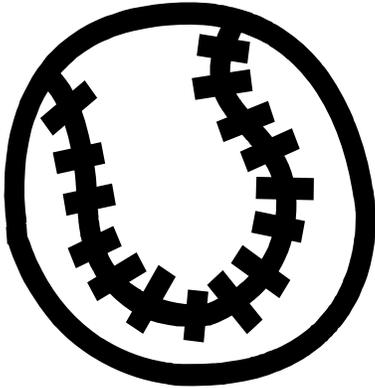
Professional photographer, Cheryl Farmer, will be conducting a special seminar at Hoke County Public Library on February 4<sup>th</sup> and 11<sup>th</sup> from 4:30 until 6 p.m. for students in grades 5-8 and on February 18<sup>th</sup> and 25<sup>th</sup> for students in grades 9-12. Preregistration is required.

Farmer is a professional free-

lance photographer and enjoys sharing her knowledge about photography with others. She has offered to present information about becoming a photographer, how to take and develop pictures, and using computer software to enhance photographs. Students will be given the chance to use professional photography equipment and software through this

unique opportunity. All services are offered free of charge. Seating is limited to ten students. Farmer will offer other classes if there is a high level of interest. Please take the time to share this information with students you think might be interested: yearbook and newspaper staff, art students, those interested in photography.

## Youth Baseball and Softball Registration



Registration for youth baseball and softball within Hoke County will be held at the Parks and Recreation department in February and M a r c h .

Sign-ups will be held February 1st through March 4th at the Old National Guard Armory, Monday through Friday, from 8am until 6pm.

A special registration date

will be held Saturday, February 26 from 9am—12pm.

The registration fee is \$25 per person during these dates. After March 4th there will be a \$5 late fee per registrant.

After March 4th, registrants will be accepted only if there are spaces available.

### Boys and Girls Programs Offered

Girls 4—18

Boys 4—16



## Valentine's Dance

This year, Hoke County Parks and Recreation will be hosting a Valentine's Dance.

You must come by the Parks & Recreation office to purchase a ticket for the dance

L. E. McLaughlin Building  
Old National Guard Armory  
423 E. Central Ave.  
Raeford, NC 28376

Date:  
February 4, 2011

Time:  
6:00 pm – 8:00 pm

Age:  
11-13

Cost:  
\$5.00



**\*\*Deadline to register is January 28<sup>th</sup>\*\***

**Space is limited**

**Tickets will not be sold at the door**

\*\*\*\*\*

More pictures from Breakfast with Santa...



## It's Time to List Your Taxes!

Hoke County has a permanent listing system for real property. Personal property (ex: mobile homes, boats, airplanes, non-licensed vehicles, multi-year tagged trailers, 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.

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 owners responsibility to notify the tax office of any improvements. This includes 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, 2011 with the exception of the Elderly/Disability exclusions.

The Elderly/Disabled exclusion and the Veteran Disability exclusion applications will be accepted until June 1, 2011

Present use applications are also due no later than January 31, 2011.

For more information, visit the Hoke County Website, [www.hokecounty.net](http://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.

## Go F.A.R. at the Hoke County Public Library

**Smart Library SMLS** **Go F.A.R. with READING!** **JANUARY 2011**

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

**Family Reading Events**

**WE LOVE SNOW!**  
Thursday, Jan. 6 @ 6:30 pm

**PLEASE AND THANK YOU!**  
Saturday, Jan. 15 @ 3:00 pm

**STARS!**  
Thursday, Jan. 20 @ 6:30 pm

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

**Smart Library SMLS** **Go F.A.R. with READING!** **FEBRUARY 2011**

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

**Family Reading Events**

**Music, Music, Music!**  
Thursday, Feb. 3 @ 6:30pm

**I Love You!**  
Saturday, Feb. 12 @ 3:00 pm

**Bears!**  
Thursday, Feb. 17 @ 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](http://www.srls.info)

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## Health Department



The Hoke County Health Center's-Diabetes Support Group meets every Tuesday from 5:30-6:30 PM.

The Hoke County Health Center's- Pre-birth Parenting Education Class meets one Thursday out of each month at 10:00 AM.

The Hoke County Health Center is now offering Childbirth Education Classes.

Registration is required one week prior to class, contact Connie at (910) 875-3717 Ext: 2104.

Registration is required one week prior to class, for more information or to register; contact Connie at (910) 875-3717 Ext: 2104.



### **“It’s All About You!” Wellness Program**

A 16-week wellness program designed to promote healthy lifestyles for 2011.

#### **Start dates:**

**January 19, 2011** at 12:00 1:00 PM (Wednesday meetings)  
**(Hoke County Cooperative Extension)**

**January 19, 2011** at 5:30-6:30 PM (Wednesday meetings)  
**(Hoke County Health Center)**

- To register, call **875-3717** ext. **2106** Ulva Little, Health Educator.
- Registration fee **\$25.00** (Educational notebooks & supplies)—Total value of the program is over **\$700**.
- Grand Finale in April 2011 to unveil the **NEW YOU!**

#### **FYI**

The last program ended in December 2010. There were 17 participants enrolled in the “It’s All About You!” Wellness program; however 9 participants successfully completed the program with a total of **-89.2 pounds** lost. These participants made healthy lifestyle changes and continued to lose weight during the holiday season.

*Sponsors: Hoke County Health Center & Hoke County Cooperative Extension*

## Cooperative Extension

### Cape Fear Regional Cattle Conference January 25th, 2011 4:00 PM - 8:00 PM

North Carolina Cooperative Extension (Robeson, Bladen, and Hoke Counties) will conduct the Second Annual Cape Fear Regional Cattle Conference on Tuesday, January 25, 2011. This conference is an excellent opportunity to receive updates on the cattle industry, learn new management practices to implement on your farm, and visit with other cattle producers in the area.

The afternoon and evening event will offer both educational opportunities as well as a cattle trade show. Vendors will include animal health companies; pasture pharmaceutical companies, fencing suppliers, etc. The educational programs will feature speakers from North Carolina State University Veterinary School, Virginia-Maryland Regional College of Veterinary Medicine, and North Carolina Cattlemen's Association. There will be a \$5.00 charge for the conference to help cover speakers and meal costs. To register for the meeting or if you have any questions, please call the Hoke County Cooperative Extension Center at 910-875-3461 by Friday, January 21. For accommodations for persons with disabilities, contact Randy Wood at 910-875-3461 or send an e-mail to [randy\\_wood@ncsu.edu](mailto:randy_wood@ncsu.edu) by Friday, January 21.

Event Location  
Southeastern North Carolina Agricultural Center and Farmers Market  
1027 U S Highway 74 East  
Lumberton, NC 28358

### Corn and Wheat Production Meeting for Hoke, Robeson and Scotland Counties February 1st, 2011 6:00 PM - 8:00 PM

Dr. Ron Heiniger, Extension Corn and Small Grain Specialist and Dr. Randy Weisz, Small Grain Specialist, will provide production information for the upcoming season. A sponsored dinner will be served. Please register by calling 875-3461 by Monday, January 24, 2011.

Event Location  
North Carolina Cooperative Extension - Robeson County Center  
O.P. Owens Agricultural Center,  
455 Caton Road  
Lumberton, NC 28359

### Bee School February 1st - March 29th, 2011, 7:00 PM - 9:00 PM

Hoke County Beekeepers are sponsoring their Third Annual Bee School. Class will meet each Tuesday from 7:00 - 9:00 p.m. Registration is limited to 15 participants. Cost is \$35.00 per person which includes local membership and mentoring through the first season so beekeepers will have experienced help in the first year. Class

consists of 2 components: Classroom discussion and In the hive practical hands-on throughout the course. Hive rental is available for the first season for a small fee so there is not a huge expense initially. Ownership is available when the beekeeper is ready.

Event Location  
North Carolina Cooperative Extension - Hoke County Center  
116 West Prospect Avenue  
Raeford, NC 28376

### Cotton Production Meeting February 7th, 2011, 6:30 PM - 9:30 PM

Dr. Jack Bacheler, Extension Entomology Specialist, will address insect management for 2011. Dr. Keith Edmisten, Extension Cotton Specialist, will present cotton production information and Dr. Alan York, Professor Emeritus will be presenting weed control information. A catered dinner will be served. You must pre-register by calling 875-3461 by Friday, January 28, 2011.

Event Location  
Hoke-Robeson Cotton Gin  
7480 Old Maxton Road  
Red Springs, NC 28377

### Become A Master Gardener March 3rd - June 2nd, 2011, 9:00 AM - 12:00 PM

We have extended the deadline for registration and moved the

beginning date to March 3, 2011 and the ending date to June 2, 2011 to allow for more participants. The Extension Master Gardeners Program is an educational program designed to enhance public education in consumer horticulture. It provides educational assistance to the citizens of the county concerning lawns, fruits, vegetables, trees and ornamentals through the utilization of a trained and supervised staff. If you are interested in becoming a Master Gardener plan to attend the Master Gardeners training beginning March 3, 2011 and continuing through June 2, 2011. Classes meet each Thursday.

The registration fee of \$100.00 includes an intensive learning manual, Master Gardener ID badge and state dues. Participants in the program must complete the training program, pass an examination, and volunteer a minimum of 40 hours the first year (20 hours in subsequent years) at the Hoke County Cooperative Extension Center. The registration deadline is February 3, 2011 and is limited to the first 25 that pay the registration fee. Stop by our center today to register. You don't want to miss out on this great opportunity.



# Hoke County's FOG Program

## WHAT IS FOG?

Fats, Oils, and Grease (FOG) is produced from cooking in your home, apartment, restaurants, schools, churches, hotels, condominiums, or anywhere food is prepared. Help reduce clogs and sewer overflows by learning the proper way to handle F O G !

## TYPICAL FOG

Meat fats  
Sauces / dressings  
Cooking oil  
Shortening  
Butter and Margarine  
Frying oil  
Food scraps  
Baked goods  
Lard  
Dairy Products

## WHY IS FOG 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 Works Collection System.

## WHAT IS THE HARM IN POURING FOG DOWN MY DRAIN?

When FOG is put down the drain, it solidifies causing clogged pipes and sewer overflows. These can be costly to



fix and damaging to the environment. If you have or see a sewage back-up, please call 910-875-6704 to report it.

### PLEASE DO

Pour cooking grease and oils into a sealable container and freeze. Then throw away!!

Scrape food scraps into the trash!!

Wipe cookware and dishes with a paper towel to remove FOG

before putting them into the sink or dishwasher.

Place strainers in your sink to catch food and then throw the food scraps in the trash.

If you have large amounts of cooking oil, think about reusing it!!!

### PLEASE DON'T

Never pour FOG into sinks, toilets, external drains, or storm sewers.

Don't rely on your garbage disposal!!! Grinding food up before rinsing it down the drain does not remove FOG and can clog pipes.

Don't run hot water over dishes, pans, fryers, and/or griddles to wash oil and grease down the drain. It will eventually solidify and cause problems.

Don't use de-greasing detergents to break down grease in your pipes. This can move grease through pipes to cause problems further down the line!

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To view Hoke County Public Works Sewer Use Ordinance Please go to: [hokecounty.org](http://hokecounty.org) And look under the Public Works link

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](http://hokecounty.org)