



# CountyLines

www.ncacc.org

MAY 2010 | VOLUME 36, NO. 5

## Off to the races in Raleigh

Greased tracks await budget; Association pushes E-911 fund bill that fulfills legislative goal

If there was any doubt of legislators' intention to wrap up the 2010 session as soon as possible and head home to campaign for the November general election, the first three days of the session served as evidence that this should be a true short session. The House and Senate opened for business at noon May 12, and less than two days later Senate Appropriations subcommittees began rolling out pieces of the chamber's budget proposal.

According to legislative records, over the past 20 years the General Assembly has taken between 40 calendar days (1996) and 172 calendar days (1998) to conduct a short session. It's too early to tell if legislators will flirt with breaking the 40-day mark, but with a 2010-11 budget deficit approaching \$800 million, the shorter the session the better for counties.

NCACC officers met with Senate and House leadership May 6 to make sure they heard loud and clear that counties are dealing with their own budget difficulties and any additional financial burden passed down from the state would be most unwelcome. President Elect Joe Bryan (Wake County), First Vice President Brian McMahan (Jackson) and Second Vice President Kenneth Edge (Cumberland) spent nearly two hours in

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NCACC President Elect Joe Bryan (Wake County), Second Vice President Kenneth Edge (Cumberland County) and First Vice President Brian McMahan (Jackson County) enjoy a light moment with Speaker of the House Joe Hackney during a meeting May 6. The three NCACC officers also met with Senate President Pro Tempore Marc Basnight.

Photo by Todd McGee

Read all about it: Legislative communications are worth your time

**T**he Legislators are coming! The Legislators are coming!

Given the state of the economy and the state budget, it is understandable that some of us might have

felt a warning was in order in the days



President's Perspective  
by Mary Accor

*Mary S. Accor*

leading up to the convening of the 2010 short session. It is apparent from the feedback generated at the Association's district meetings in April that county commissioners from across the state are concerned about possible actions the Legislature could take to balance its budget for 2010-11. Will they try to dig out of their hole by shifting responsibilities to counties, or will they redirect some county revenues to try to balance the state budget? We will find out those answers in the coming weeks.

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## Sales tax referendums go 3-for-3 in primaries

With revenues falling short of already low expectations, the majority of North Carolina counties are slashing services and positions and dipping into fund balances to avoid property tax increases. Voters in Duplin, New Hanover and Onslow counties on May 4 decided to give their commissioners some flexibility in taxing authority by approving quarter-cent sales tax referendums.

Since counties were granted the local option by the General Assembly in 2007, 15 counties – including seven of the past nine that have held a referendum – have received voter authorization to implement the tax.

Onslow County, which had previously held the referendum in May and November 2008, saw its sales tax referendum pass with an overwhelming 70 percent of the vote. The county used a multi-platform education campaign about the tax to get word out to citizens about the planned uses for the tax revenues – fund school capital needs and public safety, and avoid property tax increases.

With the support of allies such as the Board of Realtors and the Jacksonville/Onslow Chamber of Commerce,

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## Leadership habit begins at Conference

General sessions to feature U.S. education official, filming of popular political talk show

The 2010 NCACC Annual Conference may leave some attendees' heads spinning. The second general session on Saturday, Aug. 28, will be devoted to a 75-minute version of NC SPIN, a long-running weekly political talk show that airs on stations across North Carolina.

A senior policy member of the U.S. Department of Education will provide the keynote address in the opening general session.

This year's conference will be held Aug. 26-29 at the Greenville Conven-

tion Center in Pitt County. Registration information will be available by June 1 at [www.ncacc.org/annualconf.htm](http://www.ncacc.org/annualconf.htm).

The theme for this year's conference is: "Developing the leadership habit. Preparing tomorrow's leaders today."

The opening general session will be held Friday, Aug. 27. The keynote speaker will be Dennis Bega, a senior education advisor for U.S. Department of Education Secretary Arne Duncan.

North Carolina must have a world-class public school system to compete in the 21st century economy. As funders of schools, counties play a major role in the success of our public school system. What can counties do to help more students graduate high school and to

prepare more students for post-secondary education? How can rural areas increase opportunities so that students who go to college will come home to work after they graduate?

Bega also serves as a department representative for the education provisions of the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA). He coordinates the department's involvement with federal grant development and training, welfare reform, juvenile justice and at-risk youth. He also collaborates with the National Science Foundation, National Endowment for the Arts, the Appalachian Regional Commission and other partners

Please see Annual Conference on page 6

## Perspective

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Regardless of what decisions the General Assembly eventually makes this spring and summer, it is up to us as local elected officials to be involved in this process. The Association has many wonderful tools for us to keep up with the happenings in Raleigh.

Each week, the Association's Government Relations Team, led by Director of Government Relations Kevin Leonard, prepares a Legislative Bulletin that reports on all the activities in the various legislative committees. This summary is mailed and e-mailed on Fridays and is a must-read for county officials. Please make sure you read this carefully each week and be prepared to take any action if it is requested. The information that is contained in the bulletin is very helpful for discussions with your legislators when you see them in the grocery store or at church on the weekends when they return to the district.

The Association also maintains a very active Web site ([www.ncacc.org](http://www.ncacc.org)) that is updated daily – sometimes several times a day – with legislative information. If you have not already made the Association's home page a daily part of

your Internet ritual, then please bookmark this page and consult it whenever you sign on to the Internet.

If you are into Twitter, the Association utilizes a Twitter page ([twitter.com/ncacc](http://twitter.com/ncacc)) that is updated frequently during the session with the latest happenings from the General Assembly. This is an excellent way to receive almost instantaneous updates about important events at the Legislature.

If a critical piece of legislation emerges, and the Association needs immediate action from county officials, staff will e-mail a Legislative Alert with detailed instructions on what is needed from us. If you receive one of these e-mails, please follow the instructions and take the actions that are proscribed. Do not assume that somebody else will do this. When these alerts are issued, we need all hands on deck. It is easy for a legislator to explain a vote on something if they can say, "well, I never heard from my counties on this issue, so I assumed it wasn't that important."

American author Napoleon Hill once said, "Action is the real measure of intelligence." This session, we need to make sure we take the intelligence we receive from the Association and put it into action.

# NCACC's Nolen completes County Administration Course

Outreach Coordinator Lisa Nolen became the latest staff member to graduate from the County Administration Course at the UNC School of Government. During a graduation ceremony on April 16, Nolen joined 27 county officials receiving certificates. More than 1,300 city and county officials have completed the course since it began in 1964.

Course instruction covers local government law, organization and management, finance and budgeting, employment law and administration, planning and regulation of development, and the delivery of specific county and city services. The course is roughly 150 hours in length and involves the participation of more than 60 instructors – including NCACC Deputy Director Patrice Roesler.



Lisa Nolen

several northeastern county managers, who meet monthly. ... Thompson and Leonard met April 22 with Stan Meiburg, acting regional administrator for EPA Region 4 in Atlanta, to discuss air quality and the potential impacts on counties if the EPA lowers the NAAQS standard. ... Legislative Counsel Jim Blackburn provided a legislative preview and discussed the ongoing issues surrounding the implementation of the combined property tax/vehicle registration system on April 21 at the spring meeting of the North Carolina Tax Collector's Association, an NCACC affiliate organization. ... Leonard and Blackburn discussed solid waste legislation from a county perspective at the North Carolina chapter of the Solid Waste Association of North America (SWANA) Technical Spring Conference in Buncombe County. ... Policy Advocate Anthony Allen attended the National Public Administrators Forum in Guilford County from April 26-28. The event focused on transforming the connection between community and government. Public administrators from across the country attended this event, which included workshops on transparency in government, sustainability, leadership growth and development, and health and wellness initiatives. ... Allen attended a jail summit in Cumberland County with county, state and academic officials April 30 to discuss the increasing population in county jails and options to relieve this overcrowding. ... Communications Director Todd McGee was a guest on Viewpoints, a daily afternoon program on WJNC-AM 1240 in Jacksonville, on April 29 to discuss efforts by Onslow and New Hanover counties to pass a referendum on the quarter-cent sales tax. ... Assistant Communications Director Jason King attended the first day of the N.C. City-County Communicators (NC3C) Conference in Cabarrus County on April 28. Presentations focused on engagement through social media and new technologies.

**More staff notes:** Executive Director David F. Thompson addressed Orange County department heads during a strategic planning meeting on April 15. He provided a preview of the legislative short session and the kinds of financial impacts that counties might experience, and shared some anecdotal reports about how other counties are coping with the budget crisis. ... Deputy Director Patrice Roesler attended a meeting of the Institute for Emerging Issues Business Committee on Infrastructure on April 28. The committee is exploring possible approaches to increasing public-private partnerships in North Carolina to help finance the state's extensive infrastructure needs. ... Director of Government Relations Kevin Leonard provided an overview of the upcoming short session to the Wake County Board of Commissioners on April 12. ... Leonard traveled to Currituck County on April 16 to meet with

## 2009-10 NCACC OFFICERS/BOARD OF DIRECTORS

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**Kenneth Edge**, Second Vice President, Cumberland County Commissioner  
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**David F. Thompson**, NCACC Executive Director

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1: **Phil Faison**, Camden County  
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 5: **Robert Wright**, Hoke County  
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### COMMITTEE LEADERSHIP AND REPRESENTATIVES

**Mike Cross**, Legislative Goals Committee Co-Chair, Chatham County  
**Bobby Greer**, Legislative Goals Committee Co-Chair, New Hanover County  
**Ray Jeffers**, Agriculture Steering Committee Chair, Person County  
**Chuck McGrady**, Environment Steering Committee Chair, Henderson County  
**Viola Harris**, Human Services Steering Committee Chair, Edgecombe County  
**Hubert Sealey**, Justice and Public Safety Steering Committee Chair, Robeson County  
**Ann Holton**, RMP Board of Trustees Representative, Pamlico County  
**Harry Jones**, County Managers' Representative, Mecklenburg County



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# NCACC issues call for posters on youth in government programs



Guilford County Cooperative Extension employees Karen Neill and Brenda Morris pose with their "sustainable county programs" poster during the 2009 NCACC Annual Conference.

Photo by Jason King

The NCACC is seeking proposals for a poster presentation seminar related to youth in government programs and model county programs. The posters will be displayed during the 103<sup>rd</sup> Annual Conference in Pitt County. Consideration will be given to programs that lend themselves well to one-person speakers or one-on-one discussions. The poster seminar is scheduled for Friday, Aug. 27, from 8 a.m. – 2 p.m. at the Greenville Convention Center.

The posters are graphic portrayals of a program or project, using color, photos, graphs and charts to provide information. Posters highlight individual programs and projects that have transferability to other counties. A knowledgeable staff person must be present to describe the

### What should be included on a poster?

- County name, project/program title
- Project dates or duration
- Summary of what and why
- Key stakeholders involved
- Challenges/solutions
- Future plans
- Value of investment/anticipated or actual savings

program and respond to questions.

Some examples of seminars for this year might include the following: youth civic engagement programs, youth/adult partnership committees, teen courts, alternatives to school suspension pro-

grams, teen nutrition or other wellness programs, and any collaborative programs between school boards and county governments.

Poster presentations provide a unique opportunity for one-on-one discussions about new ideas and best practices that can be shared with other counties.

To submit a proposal, visit [www.ncacc.org/annualconf/2010posters.html](http://www.ncacc.org/annualconf/2010posters.html). For additional information, contact NCACC staffers Jo-Anne West or Alisa Cobb at [jo-anne.west@ncacc.org](mailto:jo-anne.west@ncacc.org) or [alisa.cobb@ncacc.org](mailto:alisa.cobb@ncacc.org). The poster seminar is an initiative of the NCACC strategic goals team charged with strengthening county leadership and board development.

## Division of Emergency Management starts mutual aid program

Mutual aid is a critical resource multiplier for those responding to emergencies and disasters in North Carolina. It simply is not physically or fiscally possible for each jurisdiction to own, maintain and staff all of the resources that might be needed to respond to significant events.

As a result of North Carolina's experience with a variety of disasters, the N.C. Division of Emergency Management has developed a voluntary statewide mutual aid program for all cities and counties. The benefit of joining is having access to all of North Carolina's response capability without incurring the costs to purchase or maintain an inventory of underused resources.

To join the mutual aid network, visit the Division of Emergency Management Web site at [www.ncem.org](http://www.ncem.org) and click on "Mutual Aid." Download the Mutual Aid Agreement, review it with your attorney, and sign and mail the agreement to: Carolyn Freitag, N.C. Division of Emergency Management, 4713 Mail Service Center, Raleigh, NC 27699-4713.

For more information on the Mutual Aid program, visit [www.ncacc.org/countyline/2010/05/mutualaid.html](http://www.ncacc.org/countyline/2010/05/mutualaid.html).

– Doug Hoell

## Legislature

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separate meetings with Senate President Pro Tem Marc Basnight and Speaker of the House Joe Hackney discussing issues of importance to counties.

Another topic was the possibility that the Legislature is considering giving counties some flexibility on the use of lottery funds, which are currently restricted to school capital needs. Counties have not asked for the flexibility. Rep. Hackney and Sen. Basnight both discussed the topic in detail when it was broached by Commissioner Edge.

"There is a desperate need in the counties to continue to build schools," Edge said. "This would be devastating to some of our counties."

One area that counties would like to have flexibility is in the use of E-911 funds. The longtime NCACC legislative goal seems ripe for action this session following the recommendation of a legislative study commission that use of the fund should be expanded to allow for additional uses. Current legislation restricts the ability of counties to use the funds to the equipment needed to receive the call.

"It gives us the ability to save lives and provide a better service," said McMahan, who used to work as a 911 dispatcher.

The study committee's recommendations also include a restructuring of the state's 911 Board – also an NCACC goal



Senate President Pro Tempore Marc Basnight (center) met with NCACC officers Brian McMahan (Jackson County), Joe Bryan (Wake) and Kenneth Edge (Cumberland) on May 6.

Photo by Todd McGee

– to provide additional local government representation. The recommendation calls for eight local government members and eight telecommunications industry members. A county manager's representative is among the recommended local government members.

Another issue that NCACC officers discussed with Sen. Basnight and Rep. Hackney was ABC system reform. A joint legislative study committee released its recommendations May 5, and those included giving the state ABC Commission more oversight over local ABC boards and requiring members of local ABC boards to come under the recently passed Local Ethics Act.

Hertford County Commissioner Howard Hunter was a member of this joint committee and worked diligently to make sure county concerns were heard as this complex issue was debated.

Speaker Hackney said he was not in favor of privatization, while Sen. Basnight indicated he would consider selling the state's part of the wholesale operation, but only if such a move would not impact the local revenue streams.

"We just want to be part of the discussion," said Commissioner Bryan. "We certainly recognize that there needs to be reform. It seems like the local voices are

being heard."

Bills filed on May 13 incorporated legislative study commission recommendations on E-911 funds (H1691) and ABC system reform (H1717/S1112).



### Tweet tweet! Receive NCACC legislative updates on Twitter

The NCACC has significantly increased its online outreach efforts through Twitter. If you're into Twitter, be sure to follow us. If you're not part of the Twitter craze, simply check out our Web page at [twitter.com/NCACC](http://twitter.com/NCACC) from time to time to see notices about upcoming legislative committee meetings of importance to counties, as well as other nuggets of interest to counties. In addition, please be sure to check out the weekly video legislative update that posted on the NCACC's YouTube Channel ([www.youtube.com/ncacc1908](http://www.youtube.com/ncacc1908)) each Friday afternoon around 3 p.m.

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# NACo accepting committee leadership applications through June 4

NACo President Elect Glenn Whitley of Tarrant County, Texas, is accepting nominations for his leadership team. Whitley will become NACo President during the Annual Conference, which will be held July 16-20 in Reno, Nev.

As president, Whitley will make a series of appointments to the various NACo committees and caucuses. The appointments are for one- to three-year terms, and membership on some of these committees has specific requirements. Following are the appointments along with the required qualifications.

To apply for an appointment, you must complete the Presidential Appointments Application Form online. The form is at [www.naco.org](http://www.naco.org) under "About NACo," "Committees and Caucuses," and finally "Presidential Appointments." Applications are due June 4. Direct questions to Karen McRunnel at (202) 942-4238 or [kmcrunne@naco.org](mailto:kmcrunne@naco.org).

## Steering committee leadership

The 11 steering committees will each have a leadership team consisting of a chair, an appropriate number of vice chairs, and subcommittee chairs and vice chairs. Those applicants who have been active members of the steering committee will be given preference in consideration for these appointments.

The applicant should be willing to help coordinate leadership conference calls, develop meeting agendas, and testify before Congress if necessary. These appointments are for one year.

Current North Carolina appointments are:

- Pender County Commissioner F.D. Rivenbark: Vice Chair, Rural Development Subcommittee, Agriculture and Rural Affairs Steering Committee
- Craven County Commissioner Lee Kyle Allen: Vice Chair, Health Steering Committee
- Guilford County Commissioner Kay Cashion: Vice Chair, Homeland Security & Emergency Management Subcommittee, Justice and Public Safety Steering Committee
- Vance County Commissioner Terry Garrison: Chair, Pension Subcommittee, Labor and Employment Steering Committee
- Wake County Commissioner Joe Bryan: Vice Chair, Transportation Steering Committee
- Gaston County Commissioner Joe D. Carpenter: Vice Chair, Highways Subcommittee, Transportation Steering Committee
- Richmond County Commissioner Pam Dillman: Vice Chair, Airports Subcommittee, Transportation Steering Committee

## Caucus steering committee leadership and members

The Rural Action Caucus Steering Committee and the Large Urban County Caucus Steering Committee will each have a chair and an appropriate number of vice chairs and committee members. Active members of these caucuses will be given preference in consideration for these one-year appointments.

Rivenbark is a member of the Rural Action Caucus Steering Committee. Bryan is a member of the Large Urban County Caucus Steering Committee.

## At-large appointments to the NACo Board of Directors

Each president appoints 10 at-large directors to the NACo Board of Directors for a one-year term. These appointments add balance to the board with respect to any inequities between urban and rural, gender, geography and minority representation. NCACC President and Cleveland County Commissioner Mary Accor is currently an at-large member of the NACo Board.

## Standing Committees

Standing committees are as follows:

- Finance Committee. Advises the officers on the annual NACo budget

before it is presented to the Board of Directors and provides oversight on other financial issues as directed by the officers. Vance County Commissioner Danny Wright is a current member of the Finance Committee.

- Information Technology Committee. Advises the officers on information technology issues and provides oversight on NACo information technology projects. Harnett County Chairman Tim McNeill is a current member of the Information Technology Committee.

- Programs and Services Committee. Advises the officers regarding the development and evaluation of programs and services for NACo members. Nash County Commissioner Fred Belfield is a current member of the Programs and Services Committee.

- Membership Committee. Actively recruits and retains member counties, parishes and boroughs in order to increase NACo's total membership. Richmond County Commissioner Pam Dillman is a current member of the Membership Committee.

Ad Hoc committees include the Deferred Compensation Advisory Committee, the NACo Financial Services Center Advisory Committee, the Arts and Culture Commission, the Geospatial Information Systems Committee and the Green Government Advisory Board.



## LOCAL ELECTED LEADERS

# Academy

## Strategic Leadership Education for County and Municipal Elected Officials

### Ethics Training for Local Elected Officials

#### WEBINAR ON-DEMAND

In 2009 the North Carolina General Assembly passed legislation that requires local governing boards to adopt a code of ethics and requires board members to receive ethics training.

This webinar provides a convenient way for elected officials to fulfill the legal requirement for two clock hours of ethics training by January 1, 2011. Elected officials may view the webinar with other board members or individually, for up to 60 days from the date of purchase. All that's required is a computer with Internet access.

To purchase this on-demand webinar, visit [www.sog.unc.edu/courses/1688/](http://www.sog.unc.edu/courses/1688/), or contact Gail Wilkins at [wilkins@sog.unc.edu](mailto:wilkins@sog.unc.edu) or 919.962.9754.

### Budget-Balancing Tactics in Local Government

#### WEBINAR ON-DEMAND

Local governments are facing tough times balancing their budgets this spring. In this 90-minute webinar, Professor David Ammons and research assistant Trevor Fleck share recent survey results on how North Carolina local governments are handling budget cuts. The webinar analyzes many cost-cutting strategies—such as hiring freezes, delayed facilities improvements, and retirement incentives—as well as tactics for enhancing revenues.

Elected officials may view the webinar with other board members or individually, for up to 60 days from the date of purchase. All that's required is a computer with Internet access.

To purchase this on-demand webinar, visit [www.sog.unc.edu/courses/1208/](http://www.sog.unc.edu/courses/1208/), or contact Susan Jensen at [sjensen@sog.unc.edu](mailto:sjensen@sog.unc.edu) or 919.962.0940.

Visit [www.lela.unc.edu](http://www.lela.unc.edu) for an up-to-date calendar of educational programs offered through the Local Elected Leaders Academy. To learn more, contact Donna Warner at 919.962.1575 or [warner@sog.unc.edu](mailto:warner@sog.unc.edu).

# District 17 Director Jones among 35 incumbents defeated in primaries

Thirty-five incumbent county commissioners were defeated in the May 4 primary elections, meaning that – combined with the 53 sitting commissioners who did not seek re-election – at least 88 new commissioners will take office in December.

Since the NCACC began tracking elections results in 1974, an average of 141 county commission seats have changed hands each December of each even-numbered year.

At least one current member of the NCACC Board of Directors lost his seat. District 17 Director Dana Jones – along with every other member of the Cherokee County Board of Commissioners – lost on May 4. District 12 Director Jim Klein of Lincoln County will be involved in a run-off June 22.

Commissioners Billy Yow and Scott Keadle both fell short in their bids for the

United States House of Representatives. Yow, a Guilford County commissioner, lost to longtime U.S. Rep. Howard Coble, while Keadle, an Iredell County commissioner, failed to unseat Rep. Patrick McHenry.

Of the six sitting commissioners running for the N.C. Senate, five faced primary opposition, and just one – Macon County’s Jim Davis – came away a winner.

Granville County’s Ron Alligood, Lenoir County’s Chris Humphrey, Surry County’s Paul Johnson and McDowell County’s Andy Webb all lost to primary opposition. Beaufort County’s Hood Richardson faced no primary opposition; he will challenge Senate President Pro Tem Marc Basnight this November.

Two commissioners running for the N.C. House, Randolph County’s Arnold Lanier and Davidson County’s Fred Mc-

Clure, lost in the primaries. Four others running for the House – NCACC President and Cleveland County Commissioner Mary Accor, Henderson County’s Chuck McGrady, Pender County’s F.D. Rivenbark and Gaston County’s John Torbett – were unopposed for the primaries. McGrady and Torbett face no opposition in November.

A listing of commissioners who lost in primary races follows:

- Alleghany:** Randy Miller
- Bladen:** W.D. Neill Jr., Larry Smith and Albert Beatty
- Carteret:** Richard Hunt
- Catawba:** Glenn Barger
- Cherokee:** Jonathan Dickey, David Sumpter and Dana Jones
- Craven:** Renée Sisk
- Cumberland:** Phillip Gilfus
- Currituck:** Barry Nelms
- Davie:** Ron Hoth

- Edgecombe:** Evelyn Powell
- Gates:** Wade Askew and Carlton Nickens
- Graham:** Steve Odom and Gene Trull
- Henderson:** Bill Moyer
- Hyde:** Gene Ballance
- Madison:** Elsberry Wyatt
- Mitchell:** Lisa Sparks
- Moore:** Cindy Morgan
- Richmond:** Paul Wilson Jr.
- Rockingham:** Amelia Whitley Dallas
- Rowan:** Tina Hall and Chad Mitchell will be involved in a run-off June 22
- Rutherford:** Margaret Helton and Paul McIntosh
- Sampson:** Malachi Faison
- Scotland:** Betty Blue Gholson and J.D. Willis
- Tyrrell:** Thomas Spruill
- Union:** Lanny Openshaw
- Warren:** Ernie Fleming
- Yadkin:** Brady Wooten

## Referendums

Continued from page 1

commissioners advertised on television, radio and billboards and in newspapers. The quarter-cent sales tax is estimated to generate \$4 million annually for the county.

In New Hanover County, the referendum earned the approval of almost 52 percent of voters. It was the county’s first attempt to gain voter approval for the additional sales tax, which is estimated to bring an additional \$5 million in revenue

for the county in 2010-11.

Commissioners lobbied for sales tax approval in order to help avoid drastic cuts to services such as libraries, parks, senior services and the popular Cape Fear Museum and Arlie Gardens. The county received a boost in its quest in the form of a positive newspaper editorial that ran in the Sunday, May 2, edition of the *Wilmington Star News*, and benefited from the support of community groups such as the Board of Education and the Chamber of Commerce.

The Duplin County Board of Com-

missioners in March supported a request by county fire departments that revenues from the tax would be distributed equally among all fire departments to fund trucks, equipment, fuel and insurance.

The county was unsuccessful in gaining the tax two years ago, but this time received more than 55 percent of the votes in support of the additional tax.

“These results show that citizens understand the dire situation many county budgets are in,” said NCACC Executive Director David F. Thompson. “With county sales tax revenues declining

and property values decreasing, many counties are facing tough choices about whether to cut services and employees or raise property taxes. This additional revenue source will help these counties avoid significant reductions in services and may help them avoid a property tax increase.”

Overall, county revenues in 2009-10 are expected to come in about half a billion dollars less than in 2008-09, according to a recent survey of county budgets conducted by the NCACC. To manage the shortfall, counties have taken a variety of steps, including cutting services, reducing staff, instituting mandatory furloughs for employees and appropriating fund balance.

“Given the state of the economy the past two years, and that the recovery seems to be coming very slowly, counties need this revenue flexibility more than ever before,” said Thompson.



If each Board of Commissioners in Duplin, New Hanover and Onslow counties adopts a resolution to implement the tax, the sales tax rate in each county will increase to 8 percent. The local portion of that rate would be 2.25 percent.

The earliest the three counties can begin collecting the tax is January 2011. The General Assembly may consider legislation during the 2010 short session that would allow the counties to begin collecting the revenues Oct. 1, 2010.

The previous four counties to see the quarter-cent sales tax referendum pass – Hertford, Lee, Randolph and Rowan – will begin collecting the additional sales tax on July 1. The other counties with the additional quarter-cent sales tax are Alexander, Catawba, Cumberland, Haywood, Martin, Pitt, Sampson and Surry.

The Association’s priority goal for the 2009-10 biennium is to “seek legislation to allow all counties to enact by resolution or, at the option of the Board of Commissioners, by voter referendum any or all revenue options from among those that have been authorized for any other county, including local option sales taxes, prepared food taxes, impact fees and real estate transfer taxes; and to preserve the existing local revenue base.”

# Answers. Later in the evening.

On Your Side®

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## Annual Conference

Continued from page 1

and represents the department at national, regional and state forums.

Prior to his present appointment, Bega held leadership positions in education, professional development, human services and economic development/workforce development in the states of Illinois and Indiana. He began his career working for a community-based program in south suburban Chicago. From there, Bega moved to education, training and development appointments with the U.S. Department of Education in Chicago.

Followers of North Carolina politics know the name NC SPIN, which bills itself as “the most intelligent half-hour on North Carolina television.” NC SPIN is a lively discussion that combines current events with humor, and controversy with common sense! Unrehearsed, unpredictable and uncompromising, NC SPIN addresses a wide range of topics.

Tom Campbell, creator, executive producer and moderator of NC SPIN, serves as host for the program. He comes from a rich family tradition of public involvement in North Carolina. His



Tom Campbell

family founded Campbell University as well as WNCT-TV, the first television station in eastern North Carolina. Campbell worked in his family’s broadcast business for

more than 24 years, writing and delivering daily radio editorials.

Prior to starting NC SPIN, Campbell served as assistant treasurer for the State of North Carolina, licensee of WRZA-TV “FOX50” in the Raleigh-Durham market, and co-founder of The Family Business Institute, a consulting firm for family and closely held companies. His “My SPIN” editorials appear in newspapers across the state, and he is often a guest of talk radio stations.

Of his brainchild NC SPIN, Campbell says, “You can’t expect people to make good decisions at the ballot box, the business place, or at the store if they aren’t properly informed. Our mission is to present a balanced, in-depth debate on issues of importance to North Carolina. It doesn’t matter if you agree or disagree with our panel. We just want you to be informed so that you can form your own opinions.”

Each week four panelists representing a range of political philosophies engage in an unrehearsed 30-minute program dealing with issues such as education, taxes, politics, race, transportation and the economy – the issues that affect North Carolinians. From the State House to your house, NC SPIN is current, relevant and informative.

Regular panelists include Chris Fitzsimon, director of North Carolina Policy Watch, and John Hood, president and chairman of the John Locke Foundation. The panelists for our special session will be identified in the coming weeks, but attendees be forewarned – watch out for the SPIN!

## Pre-conference seminar: ‘Mastering the Media: How to get good news coverage even when things are going bad’

Getting good press is not easy when the media is looking for scandals and sensational headlines, but it can be done.

In conjunction with the N.C. League of Municipalities, the Association is hosting a pre-conference seminar on media relations on Thursday, Aug. 26. Taught by acclaimed media relations strategist and consultant Mark Weaver of Communications Counsel, Inc., this dynamic and interactive seminar will teach you the media strategies that Fortune 500 companies and U.S. Senators turn to when a crisis hits. The seminar will change the way you deal with the media for the better.

Registration for the seminar is \$95 and is separate from the Annual Conference registration fee. The seminar is also open to municipal officials through the Local Elected Leaders Academy, a three-level recognition program designed to

help the Association achieve one of its strategic goals, “strengthen county leadership and board development.”

The agenda is as follows:

### 10 a.m., Understanding the media:

Before you can master the media, you need to fully understand how it works. We’ll cover the important things you need to know about each branch of the media, and how the public thinks and reacts to things they hear in the media.

**11 a.m., Getting attention with the right message:** Getting “good” media coverage is almost always the result of proper messaging. We’ll go over what



Mark Weaver

you should say and what you shouldn’t say to come out ahead in the press. We’ll also discuss how to earn the media’s attention by getting creative.

### 1:30 p.m., Crisis communications:

**Turning bad news around:** Things don’t always go right. For that reason, you’ll learn how to get favorable media coverage out of a bad situation. We’ll also cover how (and how not) to effectively respond to criticism and negative press from citizens and the press.

**2:45 p.m., Social media: Blogs, tweets, Facebook and more.** Social media, or new media, is quickly revolutionizing both how the media reports the news and how the public hears about it. Learn how to respond to blogs that attack you and learn the difference between Twitter, YouTube and Flickr.

**3:45 p.m., 15 ideas in 15 minutes.**

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# Adding a new auto? Be quick to report changes

The insurance for county-owned automobiles can be a substantial part of your property and casualty annual premium costs. Depending on your county's size, automobile insurance will account for between 21 percent and 36 percent of a county's overall property and casualty insurance program costs, with 29 percent running as an average.

In addition, no other coverage category will likely generate more policy endorsement changes – and thus an increased room for human error – than automobile coverage. It is this abundance of policy change endorsements that can be a problem, depending on how your coverage is set up.

Traditional “for-profit” commercial automobile insurance policies designed to cover a large number of auto units utilize what is known as “fleet automatic” coverage. Simply stated, this policy language design allows for the automatic addition of liability and physical damage (collision and comprehensive) coverage for new automobiles without the necessity of a formal notice to the insurance carrier. Having the coverage be added on

an automatic basis relieves the immediate urgency to notify your agent, and by extension, the insurance carrier.

The key word here is “immediate.” Most carriers require a notice within 30 days for a new vehicle to be added to the policy.

This places a sizeable burden on your risk manager and department heads

to make sure any new vehicles are added to your policy schedule within 30 days of acquisition. In addition, such changes should be requested in writing, otherwise the burden of proof will fall on you to show such a request was made if a loss occurs and the unit is not found on your policy's auto schedule.

The circumstances for the acquisition can also matter. Is the new vehicle a replacement for another automobile that is to be deleted at the same time, or is it a new auto?

The chance of failing to notify the policy carrier becomes more likely if there is no financing needed to purchase any new units. Financial institutions are diligent in requiring proof of physical damage coverage before issuing credit. Banks are often the first to discover a situation in which a unit has been purchased but no formal notice has been sent to the insurance carrier requesting its addition to the auto policy schedule.

If your county is insured through the NCACC Liability & Property Pool, this problem and necessity of reporting is a non-issue, as our policy form has no limiting time-frame notification requirement during the policy term. Further, our intent is to base our annual contribution charge on the number of units that a county owns as of the first day coverage begins (normally July 1 of each year). The standard-type autos added during the course of the year are automatically covered for both liability and physical damage through the end of that policy year.

Newly acquired, high-value units (typically ambulances with stated values) are also covered on an automatic basis,

but we do make a charge for them if added during the policy term. Although failure to notify us does not negate coverage for these units, after a loss we will go back, add the unit to the auto schedule and then charge the appropriate additional contribution.

Although we recommend notifying your underwriter to request the endorsement to add any new auto units as they are acquired to your policy, the NCACC Risk Management Pools do not penalize members in the event notice is overlooked. The main reason for requesting policy changes as they occur during the year is that it makes reviewing the automobile schedule list easier at renewal time.

These are the types of minute details that can cause serious problems for risk managers, because they are often unknown until a loss occurs and it is discovered that the vehicle is not insured.

*NCACC Property and Casualty Program Specialist Michael Kelly writes a regular column on risk management for CountyLines. Archived versions of the column can be found online at [www.ncacc.org/managingyourrisk.html](http://www.ncacc.org/managingyourrisk.html).*

## Managing Your Risk

by Michael Kelly  
NCACC Risk Management

# Health and safety plan shouldn't end with training

By Bob Carruth

Risk Control Manager

*Editor's note: This article is the fifth in a series that provides a primer for ANSI Z10, the voluntary consensus standard for health and safety management systems approved in 2005. The first four articles are available online at [www.ncacc.org/rmp.htm](http://www.ncacc.org/rmp.htm).*

In April's *CountyLines*, we briefly discussed implementing and operating an occupational health and safety management system (OHSMS). Part I of the discussion covered the basic operational elements, including the hierarchy of controls, management of change, procurement, contracting and emergency preparedness. This month, we continue the discussion with a review of training, communications and program documentation.

## Education, training, awareness and competence

This is the most critical piece of the organization's OHSMS. Many incidents occur in the workplace because a person either was not trained or did not retain what they learned in a training course, or the need for training in a particular topic was never identified to begin with.

Initially, the organization must assess what training needs to be provided. It is pretty easy to see which jobs need special licensing or certification – these are more easily justified and identifiable. The difficult part is determining the other training needs – for example, does everyone need to know about all the chemicals that are used throughout the entire county government? By answering these questions

up front, it is then easier to move on to organizing the training effort and needs.

Safety training should address the following categories of employees:

**New employees:** Orientation on safety hazards that they may encounter. This includes mentoring and follow-up to ensure the new employee understands the hazards faced in a new job, in a new environment.

**Veteran employees:** Include refresher training and training that addresses particular issues or when new hazards are discovered.

**Safety committee members:** Includes hazard identification, investigation techniques and spotting unsafe behaviors.

**Supervisors:** Hazard identification, investigation techniques and spotting unsafe behaviors (Nope, not a typo – many things we ask our safety committees to do are more effective if also done by supervisors!).

**Special employee groups:** This includes mobile workers, law enforcement staff, paramedics, building inspectors and others whose jobs may be “out of the norm” in comparison with your administrative staffs.

In training the employee, special consideration must be made to the method used. Adult learners need to see a need in what they are learning, as well as participate in the learning process, as evidenced by studies performed by the National Training Laboratory Institute.

According to Edgar Dale's “Cone of Learning,” adults retain 5 percent of what they see and hear, lending truth to the adage “telling ain't training.”

Dale's “Cone” shows that adults retain 75 percent of what they learn

through hands-on practice, while teaching the subject or immediately applying in a real situation what has been learned results in 90 percent retention.

Getting creative will pay big dividends in the long-term retention of knowledge needed to work safely.

## Communication

Another important element of implementing an OHSMS is how communication takes place. The communication process must be formally established and intentional in three main areas in order to maintain credibility and remove barriers to effective communication that exists:

1. Progress toward the implementation of the OHSMS, with all affected levels of the organization. What has been completed? What remains to be implemented? What is the effect on employees? This information should be updated as often as necessary, as it builds buy-in and commitment with both employees as well as managers.

2. Prompt reporting of all work-related incidents, including injuries, illnesses and close-call incidents. The latter is extremely important. There have been many occurrences of where post-incident investigations have uncovered conditions or circumstances that have been in existence for months or years earlier, but were not reported or corrected. Had close calls received attention, a catastrophic incident may have been prevented.

3. Having a formal system to report, track and correct hazards in the workplace is closely related to incident reporting. Employees know better than their manager, the safety committee, or even

the risk manager of what safety hazards exist in the work area. The employee should be encouraged to report these hazards and also to make recommendations on how to correct them.

## Document and record control

The final step in implementing a formal OHSMS is determining what should be documented and what records should be maintained. Retaining proper records can allow the effectiveness and performance of the management system to be tracked. The records provide a demonstration and assessment of the conformance with applicable standards.

Policies, procedures and OSHA-required programs such as for HAZCOM, Confined Space Entry and Respirator Protection, should be dated, and all revisions documented. Incident records, to include insurance claim files, OSHA injury logs, hazard tracking and collection forms and training logs, should be maintained as necessary. Some of these have particular retention periods specified in codes and standards. These records should be stored in the same manner as other important documents and records.

Our series continues next month with a discussion on how to measure and audit the effectiveness of the OHSMS once it has been established.

*As Risk Control Manager for the NCACC, Bob Carruth, a current Cabarrus County commissioner, manages the operation of the Risk Control Team for the Risk Management Pools. The team assists members with development of safety policies and programs and identification of liability exposures and controls.*



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Community Eye Care, an endorsed benefits provider of the Association, is a vision benefits company based in North Carolina. The company currently administers voluntary vision benefits for many of North Carolina's county governments. The Community Eye Care vision plan entails no cost for the county, and it enables county employees to substantially reduce their expenditures for routine eye care. With over a thousand eye care providers across the state, access to care is excellent in both rural and metropolitan areas. Community Eye Care has truly become North Carolina's Vision Plan.



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E-mail: DJones@mgtamer.com or DianneMazo@aol.com  
Web site: www.mgtamer.com

MGT of America, Inc. is the premier cost accounting consulting firm for state and local government. North Carolina cities, counties and state agencies receive from MGT client-focused consulting services focused on the development of OMB A-87 and Full Cost allocation plans, indirect cost rates, jail rates, user fee studies and management studies. As an employee-owned mid-sized firm, MGT is small enough to provide exceptional service with reasonable fees yet large enough to meet, and exceed, our client's cost allocation and cost accounting needs.

## Directory of Associate Members



5805-G Departure Drive  
Raleigh, NC 27616  
Phone: (919) 239-8936  
Fax: (919) 501-7492  
Contact: Rick Overholt  
E-mail: rick.overholt@lincservice.com  
Web site: www.lincservice.com

The Linc Group is an award-winning provider of integrated facilities management, HVAC and building systems services, lighting and electrical solutions, and other support services to thousands of commercial, government and residential clients worldwide. We are also a premier provider of comprehensive green solutions designed to help commercial clients attain LEED and ENERGY STAR certification. Through our innovative processes and methodologies that blend technology, quality standards, communication and collaboration, we have revolutionized the traditional service delivery industry. Our proven expertise and comprehensive solutions reduce cost of ownership; maximize value; increase energy efficiency; and create comfortable, healthy, safe and productive environments for clients.



333 Fayetteville St., Suite 225  
Raleigh, NC 27601  
Phone: (919) 573-6350  
Fax: (919) 573-6355  
Contact: Mike Wawrzyniak  
E-mail: mwawrzyniak@sfla.biz  
Web site: www.sfla.biz

SFL+A Architects was founded as a "service-oriented firm" in 1982. For more than 20 years that founding principle has not changed. SFL+A Architects creates aesthetically pleasing, sustainable and appropriate spaces for people to live, learn, work, play, pray and actually enjoy being. Our determination to provide architectural excellence through unsurpassed quality is driven by a commitment to communities and the people in them. Today, SFL+A Architects is a growing firm with offices in Fayetteville, Charlotte and Raleigh. It is our desire that each space we have the privilege to design reflects the goals, style and strength of the comprehensive whole, the "big picture."

### R.W. Greenfields

136 Dars Lane  
Tuckasee, NC 28783  
Phone: (828) 293-5453  
Fax: (828) 293-1585  
Contact: Richard Worth  
E-mail: rwgreenfields@verizon.net



1053 Bullard Court, Raleigh, NC 27615  
Phone: (919) 871-6001  
Fax: (919) 871-1041  
Contact: Ricky Tharrington  
E-mail: ricky@asrnc.com  
Web site: www.asrnc.com

Association Services, an independent insurance organization that specializes in voluntary benefits programs made available by county governments to their employees through payroll deduction, has been endorsed by the NCACC. Voluntary benefits are increasingly becoming an important part of county government benefits programs. It has been reported that as much as 80 percent of an employee's insurance needs will be purchased at the work site. This is particularly true with middle income employees for whom traditional ways of buying insurance has been reduced or eliminated.



421 Fayetteville St., Suite 900  
Raleigh, NC 27601  
Phone: (919) 235-4346  
Fax: (919) 235-4352  
Contact: Dan Dowell  
E-mail: ddowell@energysystemsgroup.com  
Web site: www.energysystemsgroup.com

Energy Systems Group is the premier provider of energy solutions and performance contracting services in North America. We are committed to delighting education, healthcare, government, commercial and industrial facility owners through innovation, dedication and expertise in delivering energy improvements that enhance facilities and finances. ESG designs, develops, implements, finances and operates innovative, customer-focused energy and operation solutions that enhance our client partners' facilities, productivity, comfort and finances so they can focus on meeting their core mission. In 2003, ESG was one of the first energy service companies to earn the prestigious Energy Service Provider (ESP) accreditation.

### MARTIN STARNES & ASSOCIATES, CPAs, P.A.

730 13th Ave. Drive SE  
Hickory, NC 28602  
Phone: (828) 327-2727  
Fax: (828) 328-2324  
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E-mail: bstarnes@martinstarnes.com  
Web site: www.martinstarnes.com

Martin Starnes & Associates was established in January 1987. We have offices in Hickory and Taylorsville, N.C. Our firm provides auditing services to municipalities and counties from the mountains to the coast of North Carolina. Two members of our firm have received a Certificate of Educational Achievement in Governmental Accounting and Auditing awarded by the AICPA. The services that we provide include: annual audits, cost reporting, preparation of various financial reports required by the Office of Management and Budget (federal) or the Local Government Commission (state), assistance with preparation of annual budgets and utility rate studies.



P.O. Box 50007, Columbia, SC 29250  
Phone: (803) 788-7717  
Fax: (803) 788-7671  
Contact: Todd Davis  
E-mail: tdavis@brennansc.com  
Web site: www.brennansc.com

Brennan Architects was founded in South Carolina in 1992 by Jim Brennan, who brought his lengthy experience as Managing Partner of a large architecture practice and his specialty in justice and correctional projects. The firm specializes in criminal justice facilities of all kinds. Brennan Architects creates buildings that allow people to work in a better, more productive environment. We take the time to learn how people need to move in and through a particular space. Brennan Architects employs more than 30 professionals in its Columbia, S.C., headquarters, and in offices in Charlotte; Montgomery, Ala., and Seattle, Wash.

### Johnston Ambulance Service, Inc.

2803 U.S. Highway 70 W  
Goldsboro, NC 27530  
Phone: (919) 736-3825  
Fax: (919) 739-5989  
Contact: Stephanie Jarman  
E-mail: stephanie.jarman@jas-online.org  
Web site: www.jas-online.org

Johnston Ambulance Service has been in operation for more than 35 years, serving North Carolina and surrounding states. North Carolina's largest privately owned ambulance service, JAS provides ambulance and wheelchair transportation for all types of public and private healthcare facilities. With more than 300 employees and a fleet of nearly 70 ambulances and support vehicles, JAS provides services from strategically located offices in Duplin, Durham, Johnston, Orange, Pitt, Sampson, Wake, Wayne and Wilson counties. Currently, JAS has an overall call volume of more than 60,000 trips each year and provides services for the most prestigious healthcare facilities in the state.



1509 Lady St., Columbia, SC 29201  
Phone: (803) 733-7333  
Fax: (803) 733-5888  
Contact: Dale Graver  
E-mail: info@vc3.com  
Web site: www.vc3.com

For over 16 years, VC3 has been on the leading edge of Information Technology providing a full range of IT services to the private and public sectors across South Carolina, North Carolina and Georgia. With customers of all backgrounds and sizes, VC3 has the depth and experience to provide a broad range of technology services to optimize your IT budget.

## Employee productivity awards entries due June 30

The NCACC is now accepting applications from all counties and their employees for the 2010 Employee Productivity Awards Program, sponsored by the Local Government Federal Credit Union (LGFCU). The awards program, now celebrating its 19<sup>th</sup> year, recognizes and rewards county innovation, and for the first time this year, includes a new category that recognizes and encourages county sustainability practices. The deadline for entry is June 30.

The LGFCU Employee Productivity Awards Program provides a total of \$10,000 in rewards to innovative county employees who develop successful productivity improvements in county government. To date, more than 1,400 applications have been submitted representing \$105 million in savings or cost avoidance to counties.

Ten awards of \$1,000 each are given to five line staff (employees not exempt under the Fair Labor Standards Act) programs and five managerial staff (employees exempt from FLSA regulations) programs. The 10 winning entries will be recognized and honored at the Association's Annual Conference, which will be held Aug. 26-29 in Pitt County. The 2010 awards recognize county productivity and sustainability enhancements implemented during the 2009 calendar year.

Productivity enhancements are those that improve the efficiency and sustainability of county programs, services and general administration. Productivity reflects a better way of doing business.

A productivity improvement is defined as achieving one of the following objectives: the same level of service delivered at a lower cost; a higher level of service delivered at the same cost; avoidance of future cost increases, and/or use of sustainable products or practices to provide a current, new or expanded service.

Appointed officials are eligible, including county managers and department heads. Since many county agencies have team approaches to management and operations, teams of employees may submit productivity improvements for consideration. Team awards of \$1,000 are equally shared based on the number of team members.

There is no limit to the number of entries a county may submit.

For more information about the program, including an application form, visit [www.ncacc.org/awards/productivity/about.html](http://www.ncacc.org/awards/productivity/about.html).

During its first 17 years, the program was known as the Ralph Ketner Employee Productivity Awards Program. In 2008, Mr. Ketner was awarded the Association's Friend of the Counties Award for his long-time sponsorship of the program.

# April a month of celebrations for county governments

National County Government Month (NCGM) is celebrated each April by the nation's counties to raise public awareness and understanding about the roles and responsibilities of county government. The national theme for 2010 was "Healthy Counties."

In North Carolina, the Henderson County Health Department held a couple of special activities to celebrate NCGM for residents during April. The department hosted a Child Passenger Safety Clinic on April 15 and an H1N1 Walk-in Clinic at the Henderson County Health Department on April 22.

Other departments in the county got in on the fun as well. The Henderson County Animal Shelter held a K9 Good Manners Challenge during the Henderson County Animal Services Day on April 17. Local pooches were given two tests to determine the dog's ability to listen and follow basic commands such as stay, sit or come. Dogs were also given the official American Kennel Club K9 Good Citizen Test, which is designed to test the same basic commands but is judged on a stricter scale.

The county also invited local high school students to participate in a "Shadow a County Official for a Day" event. Participants received a first-hand look at how county government works via interaction with individual employees.

Rockingham County commissioners adopted a resolution declaring April as "County Government Month." The county highlighted several environmentally conscious programs and activities it supports that contribute to the health of its citizens. For example, the county's new Judicial Center will be the first such center in the south-

east to achieve LEED (Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design) certification. LEED certification is achieved by emphasizing energy efficiency and sustainability in building location, materials and design as well as water savings and use of local supplies. An excellent example of such design

is the fact that several old growth trees at the Justice Center site have not been cut to allow for shade in the summer to lessen the cost of cooling the building.

Another "green" activity is the county's landfill methane project that will harvest the gas that naturally forms inside the county landfill and use that gas to generate electricity. A study of the landfill has been completed and the county has applied for grants to finance

the project.

County officials also decided to step up recycling efforts. Two mobile recycling trailers are being acquired and outfitted for placement at convenient locations to encourage citizens outside municipal limits.

Warren County went all-out for NCGM, hosting a block party on the Warren County Courthouse Square on April 23. Residents were encouraged to bring a picnic and lawn chair to enjoy an evening of entertainment. Cooperative Extension hosted the event and focused its efforts around NCGM's healthy counties theme.

"Cooperative Extension plays a vital role in our healthy community, working with several local agencies and teaching them how to develop community gardens, teaching families how to eat healthier, teaching how to shop and stretch your dollars and promoting wholesome youth activities, especially the 4-H program," Clerk to the Board Angelena Kearney-Dunlap, who chaired the County Government Celebration Committee, told the *Warren Record*.

Festivities concluded with a Ghost Walk, led by Warren County Community Schools Director Patrick Draffin. The party lasted through the weekend as the county hosted SpringFest 2010, presented by the Warrenton Revitalization Committee.

On the state level, Governor Beverly Perdue issued a proclamation April 22 declaring April as National County Government Month.

In 1991 the National Association of Counties (NACo) developed County Government Week in an attempt to encourage counties across the country to actively promote county government programs and services to raise public awareness and understanding about the roles and responsibilities of the nation's counties to meet the needs of the community. This is the first year that NACo extended County Government Week to County Government Month.

NACo estimates that more than 1,000 counties participated in NCGM by hosting a variety of community outreach events and activities. These include tours of county facilities, recognition ceremonies for county employees and volunteers, distribution of information about county programs and services, sponsoring student essay contests, meetings with business and community leaders, and adoption of resolutions.



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# Career Opportunities

**COUNTY MANAGER** – Carteret County, North Carolina. This position is located in a beautiful resort area (Crystal Coast) on the southeastern coast of N.C. Population is 64,107 and over 218,000 seasonal. Seeking a talented, results oriented professional to serve as the County's next Manager. The County is governed by a seven-member Board of Commissioners. Candidate will manage an organization with over 550 employees and a total operating budget of \$90 million. A minimum of five to seven years of progressively responsible local government and/or private sector experience in management of an organization comparable to Carteret County is required, with an appropriate amount of time spent in a supervisory/managerial role in the public sector. Experience beyond the minimum stated, in a variety of local government or private sector settings, is also highly desirable. The ideal candidate should also possess experience in finance, personnel, public relations, growth management and coastal issues. The salary for the position is negotiable based on the candidate's qualifications and experience and is supplemented by an excellent benefit package. Please submit detailed résumé with salary history, work related references and County application (available at [www.carteretcountygov.org](http://www.carteretcountygov.org)) to: Myles McLoughlin, Director of Human Resources, Carteret County, 302 Courthouse Square, Suite 215, Beaufort, NC 28516. Position open until filled. EOE.

**SOLID WASTE MANAGER** – Henderson County. Manages all phases of solid waste operations and material recovery facility. Ensures compliance with all local, state, and federal regulations pertaining to solid waste disposal and recycling; prepares, administers, and monitors departmental budget; exercises full supervision of solid waste staff. Requires thorough knowledge of NCDENR rules and regulations regarding environmental sanitation; thorough knowledge of operation of transfer station, and use of heavy equipment. Requires any combination of education and experience equivalent to graduation from an accredited college or university with a degree in business administration, civil engineering or engineering technology or related field; extensive and progressively responsible experience managing a solid waste facility including supervisory experience. Must be certified as a Transfer Station Operator by the Solid Waste Association of North America. Salary range \$50,606 – \$78,478 depending on qualifications. Submit county application and résumé to Henderson County HR Department, 112 First Avenue West, Hendersonville, NC 28792, [www.hendersoncountync.org/hrd](http://www.hendersoncountync.org/hrd). Open until filled. EOE M/F/H/V.

**COUNTY ADMINISTRATOR** – Lunenburg County, Virginia (pop.13,268), located in Southside Virginia, invites applications from highly skilled candidates to serve as the County's next County Administrator. Lunenburg County's government provides a wide range of services and is widely recognized for its past efforts to provide a high quality of life and a diverse economy and workforce for its citizens. The County operates with a FY 2010 budget of \$28.4 million. A bachelor's degree in business or public administration, public policy, finance, planning or related field is required with a master's degree preferred. At least five (5) years of public management experience as a Chief Executive/Administrator or Deputy Chief Executive/Administrator in a comparably sized community or organization with a wide range of knowledge and duties in operations and management is desired. Candidate's past experience should demonstrate high levels of performance in areas that include finance and budget, economic development, long-range and strategic planning, staff development and maintaining positive lines of communication at all levels. Additional experience in team building and outreach and development of governmental departments a significant consideration. A progressive record of strong professional, administrative leadership in a similar community or organization is an important consideration. The salary for the position is negotiable within a range of \$75,000 to \$95,000 based on the candidate's qualifications and experience and is supplemented by an excellent benefit package. Please submit a letter of application, detailed résumé with salary history and work related references to: John A. Anzivino, Senior Vice President, Springsted Incorporated, 1564 East Parham Road, Richmond, VA 23228; Fax 804-726-9752 or e-mail [Richmond@springsted.com](mailto:Richmond@springsted.com). Résumés received by June 11, 2010 will receive priority consideration. Position remains open until filled. For a complete community/position profile related to the position please visit [www.springsted.com](http://www.springsted.com). Lunenburg County is an EOE.

**COUNTY MANAGER** – Hyde County. Pop. 5,826 (seasonal 25,000). Small coastal county located in Eastern NC with seasonal hunting, fishing and tourist communities. Duties include exercising full supervision of all departments of county government under control of five member Board of Commissioners. Bachelor's degree in business administration or other appropriate field, masters degree in public administration preferred, or equivalent combination. Significant managerial experience – experience with N.C. governmental management preferred. Must have a strong background and skills in budget/finance and administrative skills. Background should include skills in economic development and human resources. Salary negotiable and will be commensurate with experience and/or education. Excellent fringe benefits. Submit completed Hyde County Application to County Attorney Sid Hassell, 112 S. Respass St., P.O. Drawer 2187, Washington, NC 27889-2187. All applicants must complete a Hyde County application form ([www.hydecourtnc.gov](http://www.hydecourtnc.gov)). A résumé may be attached, but is not a substitute. Incomplete or unsigned applications will not be processed. Application deadline: Monday, May 31, 2010 @ 5:00 PM.

**SOCIAL SERVICES DIRECTOR** – Scotland County. Responsible for overall agency operations for a primarily rural county with a population of 36,000 and supervision of budget activities totaling over \$93 million and a staff of 95.5 positions. Management functions include implementing state and federal regulations, planning initiatives to impact on social problems, designing organizational structures, setting priorities, allocation resources and evaluating agency's efficiency and effectiveness. Successful candidates will be required to live in Scotland County and perform under general supervision of the social services board. Please see recruitment announcement at [www.scotlandcounty.org](http://www.scotlandcounty.org) for more information. Minimum Qualifications: Master's degree in social work and 2 years of supervisory experience in the delivery of client services; or a bachelor's degree in social work and 3 years of supervisory experience in the delivery of client services, one of which must have been in Social Services; or graduation from a 4 year college or university and 3 years of supervisory experience in the delivery of client services, two of which must have been in Social Services; or an equivalent combination of training and experience. A completed State Application Form (PD-107) along with an Official Sealed College Transcript of undergraduate and graduate degrees, and a detailed résumé, must be submitted to Scotland County Personnel, PO Box 489, Laurinburg, NC 28353, and received no later than, 6/11/2010 at 5:00 PM. References and Criminal Background check on final candidates will be required. Pre-employment Drug test required. Salary Range is \$65,676 – \$95,172. Actual salary will depend on experience, education and salary history. Scotland County Department of Social Services is an EEO Employer and complies with requirements of the ADA.

**DIRECTOR OF SENIOR CENTER** – Carteret County. Plans, coordinates and supervises programs, services and staff for the senior population. Develops and administers budget, funding and grant proposals. Degree req. in the human services or related field & considerable exp in operating & supervising senior programs. Supv. exp. req. Salary commensurate with experience. Excellent benefit package. Closing Date: open until filled. County application form available at ESC and Carteret County website [www.carteretcountygov.org](http://www.carteretcountygov.org). County application must be submitted to: Employment Security Commission 309 Commerce Avenue Morehead City, N.C. 28557. Equal Opportunity Employer.

**PHARMACY MANAGER** – Robeson County Wellness Department. Annual Salary: Based on Experience. Closing Date: Open Until Filled. Qualifications: Doctor of Pharmacy Degree (Pharm D.) and 5 years of experience including in outpatient and/or retail setting. Must maintain current pharmacy license in the State of North Carolina. Application Process has changed. Applicants must apply online at [robesoncountycareers.com](http://robesoncountycareers.com) or [www.co.robeson.nc.us](http://www.co.robeson.nc.us). For questions about the new web site please e-mail [jobs@co.robeson.nc.us](mailto:jobs@co.robeson.nc.us). Robeson County Human Resources, 701 N. Elm St., Lumberton, NC 28358. Jobsline: 910-671-6289. An Equal Opportunity Employer.

Career Opportunities listings online:  
[www.ncacc.org/classifieds.htm](http://www.ncacc.org/classifieds.htm).

## McDowell County hosts South African government official

A program sponsored by the U.S. State Department and Appalachian State University brought a group of 15 South African government officials to North Carolina in April to study and develop strategies for their nation.

The Legislative Fellows Program is designed to “strengthen South Africa’s young democracy, assist in the empowerment of mid-level government professionals and to enhance technical skills and institution-building capacity for South African legislative professionals.”

The team visited North Carolina for three weeks and wound up its visit with a trip to Washington, D.C., in late April. While in the Tar Heel state, four members were assigned to units of local government, while other members were assigned to state or federal agencies.

Yandisa Majozini-Mhlamvu was placed with McDowell County. During her time there, she visited the NCACC offices, and met with Paul Crissman, chief of the Solid Waste Section of the Division of Waste Management, members of the School of Government and staff with the Local Government Commission.

A chemical engineer by training, Majozini-Mhlamvu oversees the solid waste handling, disposal and recycling operations for the municipality of the Hibiscus Coast. The community is located on the eastern coast of South Africa and is a tourist destination for people attracted to the beautiful beaches. The population of the Hibiscus Coast exceeds 300,000.

“The exposure to the United States of America’s overall government system has been very good,” she said. “I am intrigued with the level of transparency with all government activities. I believe

that this creates a trust relation between the government entity and the citizens served. Another impact which is maybe not direct is the fact that citizens take ownership of decisions taken by the organ of government. There is a quote I like which says the following: ‘knowledge is power.’”

During one of her visits to Raleigh, Majozini-Mhlamvu spent the morning visiting with Crissman, who explained the evolution of landfill legislation in North Carolina and how his section, which is an enforcement agency, interacts with local governments.

She also attended an NCACC District Meeting in Cleveland County on April 14 and visited with Sharon Edmondson of the Local Government Commission to learn about financing options available to local governments for various projects and how the LGC assists local governments.

She spent the majority of her visit shadowing McDowell County Manager Chuck Abernethy and getting a firsthand look at how county government operates.

“South Africa has a young democracy, but it is thriving, and I have seen some similarities between McDowell County and the Hibiscus Coast Municipality,” Majozini-Mhlamvu said. “The good thing is that learning is an ongoing process, and local government requires dedicated employees who have a passion for changing the lives of the citizens they serve.

“I currently have a lot of ideas which I will implement back home. I sincerely thank McDowell County for welcoming me into their organization and ensuring that all my aims are being met.”

### ADVERTISING POLICY

The NCACC publishes career opportunities in CountyLines and on its Web site at [www.ncacc.org/classifieds.htm](http://www.ncacc.org/classifieds.htm).

#### CountyLines rates (monthly)

\$1.50 per printed line (minimum of \$25 per monthly ad) for North Carolina member counties and county entities; \$3.50 per printed line (minimum \$75) for all others.

#### Web site rates (one-time charge)

\$20 per ad (up to 400 words) for N.C. counties and county entities; \$50 per ad for all others. After 400 words, all ads will cost an additional \$5 per every 50 words.

#### General information and instructions

Ads published in CountyLines run in one issue only unless otherwise requested by the advertiser. Ads published in CountyLines are posted online at no additional charge and will remain posted on the Web site until the position's closing date or the position is filled, for up to six months. Advertisers are asked to notify the NCACC when their position has been filled.

Ads may be submitted, along with billing information, to Jason King at [communications@ncacc.org](mailto:communications@ncacc.org) or faxed to (919) 733-1065. Non-N.C. member counties must provide a credit card number before ads will be posted. **The deadline for advertising in the next issue of CountyLines is Tuesday, June 8.** For more information, please call Jason King at (919) 715-0045.

## Calendar of Events

For a complete listing of events, visit [www.ncacc.org/meetings.htm](http://www.ncacc.org/meetings.htm).

### ▼ JUNE

2 NCACC Risk Management Pools Board of Trustees meeting, Quorum Center, Raleigh

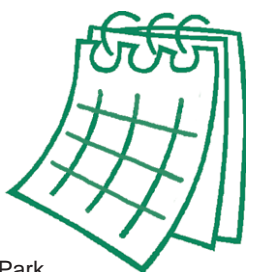
18-19 NCACC Board of Directors meeting, Hilton Asheville Biltmore Park

24-26 N.C. City-County Management Association Summer Seminar, Sea Trail, Sunset Beach

### ▼ JULY

15-17 N.C. Association of County Attorneys Summer Conference, Grove Park Inn, Asheville

16-20 NACo Annual Conference, Reno, Nev.



# Durham works with 'junior' leaders

By Peggy Kernodle

Junior Leadership Durham 4-H

Junior Leadership Durham 4H (JLD-4H) is designed to provide high school sophomores with in-depth knowledge of the Durham community, and to promote active civic engagement through stimulating leadership and volunteer opportunities. The special interest club is intended to also support many N.C. Department of Public Instruction Civics curriculum objectives through the activities and scenarios JLD-4H youth are involved in throughout the eight planned experiential sessions.

General JLD-4H Club goals include:

- developing citizenship and leadership skills to serve and lead others;
- increasing volunteerism among high school students;
- fostering more involvement in teens through leadership by promoting communication between students from

different high schools in Durham;

- increasing youths' awareness of diverse community needs and resources; and
- exposing youths to various careers and volunteer leadership opportunities.

This valuable experience empowers teens to find and to nurture their leadership skills while increasing their confidence by applying leadership in Durham. The Government and Citizenship session particularly focuses on participation in government. Durham county and city governments support the effort and alternate hosting the event.

"Durham County Government continues to be an ardent supporter of Junior Leadership Durham as leaders work to provide critical leadership development and civic education for our local students," said Deborah Craig-Ray, assistant county manager for communications. "It is a premier program for young people in our community."

Students receive an overview of city and county governments by the city and county managers. Students then shadow a department head to understand that department's mission and report their experiences to the other students. Participants inquire how a chosen problem might affect each department; this year, students brainstormed adaptations to decreased departmental budgets.

The students also participate in a mock city-county meeting to address a community concern. This year, the concern was environmentally based: "Should plastic shopping bags be banned?" Research was done prior to the session, and students were given a presentation by the city-county sustainability director. Students are assigned roles such as staff, city council members, county commissioners and citizens (pro and con). Available elected officials attend to encourage students and to guide the mock process.

Students who participate in this and the other JLD-4H sessions and outreach projects will gain a fundamental understanding of the politics and workings of Durham and what the important issues are. They will get to meet, ask questions of, and interact with Durham's leadership. They will also have the opportunity to develop friendships across Durham with students in different high schools and from different socio-economic, ethnic and philosophical backgrounds.

Building diverse relationships and learning about others will enrich each individual and promote growth. In order to receive the full benefit of the program, students must prepare for sessions and actively participate. Students are required to complete a community service project, and can apply their individual focus to a 4-H project or presentation. Small groups of four choose projects specific to session topics.

# Grant to help Wayne clean up brownfields

A \$400,000 grant from the Environmental Protection Agency is on its way to Wayne County as part of a revitalization program.

The money will be used to conduct an assessment study that will determine how many abandoned industrial and commercial properties throughout the county could be considered brownfields sites. A brownfields site is a property that can not be redeveloped or reused because of the presence or potential presence of a hazardous substance, pollutant or contaminant.

Sue Farmer, facilities services director for Wayne County, applied for the grant and said she believes the county has at least 100 sites that will qualify as brownfields sites. Farmer first learned about the grants at a Council of Governments workshop in 2009. She then contacted Goldsboro City Planning Director Randy Guthrie regarding sites in the city.

"After talking with him, I felt like we would have enough sites to do it countywide," Farmer said. She and a staff member spoke with representatives from all the municipalities throughout the county, asking if they had sites that could potentially qualify.

"Then I put together a proposal, asked for \$400,000 to conduct the assessment and we found out that we will be getting the money," she said. "This phase will assess sites, and after we finish the assessment phase – which will probably take about 18 months – we will apply for a clean-up grant."

Farmer said it was likely the county would receive a second grant for cleanup of the sites.

"Usually if you get the first one, you'll get the second grant in this situation," she said.

Wayne County was one of four North Carolina local governments announced as grant recipients on April 21. The cities of Charlotte, Whiteville and Wilson were the others.

In the county's acceptance letter, David R. Louyd, director of the EPA's Office of Brownfields and Land Revitalization, wrote: "Wayne County submitted an outstanding grant proposal, and we deeply appreciate the tremendous commitment of time and energy that went into its preparation."

The brownfields program encourages redevelopment of America's estimated 450,000 abandoned and contaminated waste sites. These investments and jobs target local, under-served and economically disadvantaged neighborhoods – places where environmental cleanups and new jobs are most needed. Cleaning up these communities, which is one of EPA Administrator Lisa P. Jackson's priorities, leads not only to health and environmental benefits but also economic development and prosperity. For more information on EPA's brownfields program, visit [www.epa.gov/brownfields](http://www.epa.gov/brownfields).

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### Iredell County seats successor to late Godfrey Williams

Frank Mitchell rejoined the ranks of county commissioners April 20 after being sworn in as a member of the Iredell County Board of Commissioners. Mitchell, a former county commissioner (1990-92) and state representative, filled the seat on the board that became vacant March 6 following the death of Chairman Godfrey Williams.

Mitchell will serve through November. The person to serve out the remaining two years of Williams' term will be elected in November. The board also elevated Vice Chairman Marvin Norman to chairman, and voted Steve Johnson as vice chairman.

Earlier in April, the county honored Williams by presenting his widow with a plaque that will be displayed in the government center.

### Nash County mourns death of longtime chairman Mayo

Longtime Nash County Commissioner and Chairman J. Claude Mayo Jr. died April 27 at the age of 82. Citing health reasons, Mayo resigned his seat in February 2009, bringing to an end his tenure on the Board of Commissioners that began in 1981.

Mayo was appointed chairman in 1990 and held the post until his resignation. He was lauded for his economic development efforts during his more than 27 years on the board.

### Person County board votes to delay revaluation

Person County joined multiple counties across the state in delaying a scheduled property revaluation. The county voted April 19 to delay the revaluation until 2011. The county, which is on a four-year revaluation schedule, last conducted a revaluation in 2005. Commissioners also voted in 2009 to delay revaluation.

Several counties – Alexander, Burke, Dare, Davidson, Lee and Wilkes – indicated in a recent NCACC survey that they had delayed scheduled revaluations until 2013. Moore County has delayed its next revaluation until 2015. Lincoln County said it has moved up its revaluation from 2012 to 2011.

Haywood County commissioners on April 26 discussed delaying the county's next revaluation by a year to 2011.

### Graham turns to Duvall as county manager

Graham County commissioners hired Mickey Duvall, who served as a Macon County commissioner from 1996-2000, as county manager in late April. Duvall has for the past five years served as economic development director for the Eastern Band of Cherokee Indians.

Duvall succeeds Lynn Cody, who resigned March 22. Assistant County Manager Kim Crisp has served as interim county manager since then.

### Perquimans County mourns death of Commissioner Wiggins

Shirley Wiggins, who became the first woman and the first African American to serve as a Perquimans County commissioner when she took office in 1992, died April 18 at the age of 77. She was in her 18<sup>th</sup> consecutive year on the county board at the time of her death.

"Shirley was a longtime county commissioner and has been an integral part of the decision-making of our board," Board Chairman Mack Nixon said in a statement. "She has especially been an advocate and voice for our county's children, senior citizens and veterans. Her spirit and dedication has led to many improvements for all Perquimans County citizens, and her influence will continue for years to come. She has been a model for character, leadership and unselfishness for us all."

Commissioners had yet to appoint anyone to Wiggins' seat at press time for this issue of *CountyLines*.



Orange County Commissioner Valerie Foushee (right) presented Shirley Wiggins with the Outstanding Leadership Award from the N.C. Association of Black County Officials on Aug. 29, 2009.

Photo by Jason King



### Wayne celebrates boost in bond rating

Wayne County received some good news in April from Standard & Poor's, one of the nation's three major credit rating agencies, which raised its long-term rating on the county's outstanding general obligation debt to AA- from A+ based on continued strong financial performance despite recessionary pressures. In its report, the rating agency said that the county's outlook was stable. During its May 4 meeting, the Board of Commissioners offered its congratulations to county staff for excellent fiscal management. Pictured from left to right (back row) are Commissioners Andy Anderson, Steve Keen and John Bell; County Manager Lee Smith; Commissioners Bud Gray and Sandra McCullen; Vice Chairman J.D. Evans; and Chairman Jack Best. Finance Department employees are (front row, left to right) Janice Rice, Paige Serlick, Allison Speight and Finance Director Pam Holt.

Photo courtesy Wayne County

### Durham campaign rewards residents for recycling

Durham County kicked off its "Recycle and Win Campaign" in mid-April. The campaign lasts 15 weeks and rewards one household per collection day for recycling properly. Each randomly selected winner receives a pair of Durham Bulls game tickets, an all-you-can-eat buffet meal and souvenir cap. The campaign concludes Aug. 3.

"Recycle and Win' rewards county residents who recycle their items at the roadside," said Brian Haynesworth, waste reduction specialist for the county's General Services Department. "It's a win-win scenario that helps the environment and increases the rate of participation of recycling in Durham County."

### Carteret appoints interim manager

Carteret County welcomed Wayne Deal, a retired county manager who most recently served in Nash County, as its interim county manager April 19. He succeeded John Langdon, who retired April 16 after six years in the position. The Carteret County Board of Commissioners made a special presentation to Langdon, thanking him for his service, during its April 19 meeting.

### Chatham to form task force to study uses for historic courthouse

Chatham County began soliciting the public April 19 for members to serve on a task force to study and make recommendations to commissioners about the use of the Historic Courthouse once it is reconstructed. Commissioners were to make task force appointments May 17.

The task force will be charged with identifying multi-purpose functions for the courthouse and making recommendations to the Board of Commissioners on the optimum combination of these uses. It is to complete its work by August.

"Although the fire was a tragedy for this community, we need to look at the rebuilding process as an opportunity," said Board Chair Sally Kost.

Less than a week after the courthouse burned, leaving little but the four exterior brick walls, commissioners voted to rebuild the historic courthouse, which was built in 1881.

### Institute of Emerging Issues looks to 'Unleash Creativity'

The second of two free webinars offered by the Institute for Emerging Issues designed to share information about how to unleash creativity in communities will be held June 2. The first webinar was to be held May 20. The webinar is an opportunity to learn from others who are leading their communities' efforts to develop and implement strategies to cultivate creative businesses, individuals and community assets.

To register for the June 2 webinar, which will be held from 3:30 – 4:30 p.m., visit [www2.gotomeeting.com/register/467107330](http://www2.gotomeeting.com/register/467107330).

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**Wake County digs in**

More than 40 years after Wake County erected its last courthouse, commissioners and other court and public safety officials broke ground on the county's future Justice Center on May 10. The planned 577,000-square-foot facility will hold up to 22 courtrooms and two court hearing rooms, as well as meeting space for the Board of Commissioners and various offices for court officials and county personnel. It is scheduled for completion by the summer of 2013. The building has been designed to achieve Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design (LEED) certification. Participants in the "dirt turning" ceremony included (from left to right, beginning with sixth from left) Vice Chair Betty Lou Ward, Commissioner Joe Bryan, Sheriff Donnie Harrison, Chairman Tony Gurley, Commissioner Lindy Brown, County Manager David Cooke, and Commissioners Stan Norwalk and Harold Webb.

Photo by Jason King

**Pitt County commissioners promote Hines to clerk**

Kimberly W. Hines, who joined Pitt County in 2001 as deputy clerk, was appointed clerk to the board April 19.

Hines holds a Certified Municipal Clerk (CMC) designation and is working toward the Master Municipal Clerk (MMC) designation. She received her North Carolina Certified Clerk designation in January 2010. She is a member of the North Carolina Association of County Clerks and the International Institute of Municipal Clerks.

**Longtime Madison County Chairman Ledford dies**

James Ledford, who served 16 terms as chairman during his 20 years on the Madison County Board of Commissioners, died April 18 at the age of 84. Ledford took office in December 1970 and served through 1986. He was again elected in 1990 and served through 1994.

One of his two sons, John Ledford, is director of the North Carolina Alcohol Law Enforcement Division.

**Craven's Allen reappointed to state health task force**

Craven County Commissioner Lee Kyle Allen, a member of the NCACC and National Association of Counties boards of directors, has been reappointed to the Governor's Task Force for Healthy Carolinians. Allen is a past president of both the National Association of Local Boards of Health and the Association of North Carolina Boards of Health, an NCACC affiliate organization.

**Craven hires assistant manager**

Jack Veit, who worked as an assistant manager under former Carteret County Manager John Langdon since 2005, assumed the assistant county manager position in Craven on May 10. He succeeds Ray Moser, who retired Feb. 1.

Since 2007, Veit oversaw capital projects and 10 county departments.

**SHORTS**

**Bladen:** Sarah West was appointed clerk to the board in April following the resignation of Ashley Sasser. ...

**Catawba:** Sylvia Fisher, who previously served as Emergency Medical Services training officer and as interim EMS manager since January 2010, was named EMS manager April 30. Fisher is a 12-year EMS veteran. She succeeds Bryan Blanton, who was EMS manager from 2003 until he took over as Emergency Services director earlier this year. ... **Guilford:** Commissioner Kay Cashion, a member of both the NCACC and National Association of Counties boards of directors, was honored with the 2010 County Commissioner Leadership Award from the N.C. Council of Community Programs on May 3. ... **Halifax:** The Board of Commissioners has made several changes to fees and fee structures. Effective July 1, the rates for building inspections depend on the type and size of the building. Other fee increases impact immunizations, marriage licenses, electrical and plumbing permits, and county water system hookups. ...

**Hertford:** Commissioners on April 5 selected Curtis Freeman to serve as vice chairman, a position held by DuPont Davis until his death March 25. ...

**Hyde:** Commissioners appointed Clerk to the Board Lois Stotesberry as acting administrative county manager on April 26 as the county searches for an interim manager. Carl Classen was let go April 19. ... Matthew Swindell

is the county's new building inspector and solid waste code enforcement officer. ... **Mecklenburg:** Joan Kennedy was announced as director of the newly formed Child Support Enforcement Department on April 16. In 2009, the state required counties to take on management of Child Support Enforcement. The Mecklenburg department will have an operating budget of over \$7 million and employ 98 workers. ...

In response to a decline in revenue brought about by the struggling economy, Code Enforcement instituted a general permit fee increase of 4.75 percent effective April 21. ... John Kelly Wall, who served as sheriff from 1979-83, died May 8 at the age of 87. ...

**Moore:** Commissioners appointed Laura Williams as clerk to the board May 3. She succeeds Megan Owrey Garner, who accepted a grant writing position with the Department of Public Works. ... **Pasquotank:** A vote from the Elizabeth City Council pushed forward a plan to merge county and city parks and recreation departments. In March, the county adopted the inter-local agreement, which calls for the county to pick up 55 percent of funding. ...

**Rockingham:** Michael Roche, who has served with the library system since 1988, assumed permanent library director duties April 20. He had served as interim director since December 2009. ... **Wayne:** Former Commissioner Howard A. "Buddy" Shaw died May 2. He served one term from 1988-92.

**Wilkes County seeking approval for sales tax increase in June**

Wilkes County voters will decide June 22 – the date of the second primary – whether to support a referendum on the quarter-cent sales tax. The sales tax increase would bring Wilkes an additional \$1.15 million annually, according to County Manager John Yates.

County officials say they are trying to avoid cutting services and have maxed out options for cutting current expenses by implementing a series of budget reductions, mandating employee furloughs, offering early retirement and delaying the start of a new jail.

At least one other county – Robeson on Aug. 3 – has a referendum scheduled on the quarter-cent sales tax.

Since counties were granted the local option by the General Assembly in 2007, 15 counties have received voter authorization to implement the tax.



**Onslow's Smith leads Tax Collectors Association**

The North Carolina Tax Collectors Association, an NCACC affiliate organization, installed a new slate of officers April 22. Pictured above, from left to right, are Secretary Cathy Booker of Pitt County, Vice President David Reid of Transylvania County, President Harry Smith of Onslow County, and Treasurer John Petoskey of Union County. Among award winners, Forsyth County's Betty Hodges was honored as Outstanding Tax Employee of the Year for her continued work in Forsyth County and for the Association at large in the area of tax collections.

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# Brunswick's Gore takes helm of county clerks association

Brunswick County's Debby Gore knows she has some big shoes to fill as the new president of the North Carolina Association of County Clerks.

Caldwell County Clerk Kathy Myers, now past president of the NCACC (yes, there are two of them), completed an ambitious and productive year as leader of the Association at the group's Annual Conference, held in mid-April in Rowan County. Her work, according to Gore, included revisions of the Association's bylaws and handbook.

Gore said before taking the reins as president of the Association, she saw to it that Myers received a much-needed neck massage. The clerks association has enjoyed a close relationship with the N.C. Association of County Commissioners as an affiliate organization since 1981.

Gore said she is relying on her support staff, which includes Deputy Clerk to the Board Margie Stephenson and a "loaner" from the Building Inspections Department, to make it possible to pull off double duty as clerk to the Brunswick County Board of Commissioners and as clerks association president.

"It's going to be a challenge but I think I can handle it," Gore said. "With both of them it's going to make it easier."

Gore said one of her initiatives is to increase membership and involvement



Above (from left to right), NCACC officers Angelena Kearney-Dunlap, Jeanette Deese, Debby Gore and Ann Clark.

At right (from left to right), Craven County Commissioners Renée Sisk and Lee Kyle Allen, Chairman Perry Morris, Clerk to the Board Gwen Bryan, County Manager Harold Blizzard, Commissioner Theron McCabe, and Bryan's daughter Adai.

Photos courtesy Marcia Wilson/Wayne County

beyond an already "great group." The Association is planning three regional meetings for the fall – Oct. 1 in Hoke



County, Oct. 22 in Johnston County and another stop in a mountain county.

"Kathy told me the best part of the

job would be going to the regionals and seeing more of the state," Gore said. "It's something you only do once, so I'm going to make it fun."

In addition to Gore, the other officers are Vice President Jeanette Deese (Carteret County), Secretary Ann Clark (Ashe), Treasurer Angelena Kearney-Dunlap (Warren) and Past President Myers. The Board of Directors consists of Carolyn Athey (Rowan), Kristen King (Franklin), Gaynell Lee (Lee County), Effie Varitimidis (Guilford) and Marcia Wilson (Wayne).

Also at the Annual Conference, Craven County Clerk to the Board Gwen Bryan was presented with the Howard Holly Outstanding Clerk Award. Bryan, who has served as Craven's clerk since 1993, thanked her Board of Commissioners and her management team for allowing her the opportunity to pursue her educational goals and to remain active with the clerks association.

"It means a lot to be recognized by your colleagues," she said. "It's quite an honor. It's not something I take very lightly. There is quite an effort that goes on in attaining some of the certifications."

Wake County will host the 2011 N.C. Association of County Clerks Annual Conference on April 7-10 at the Crabtree Marriott.



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