



# Employee Newsletter

Edgecombe County  
December 2007



## Dates to Remember:

Commissioners' Meeting  
Jan. 7<sup>th</sup> @ 2:00 PM

Christmas Holiday  
Dec. 24<sup>th</sup>, 25<sup>th</sup> & 26<sup>th</sup>

New Years Holiday  
January 1st

## Brain teaser

**Can you name 3 consecutive days without using the words Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday, Friday, Saturday or Sunday?**

## Happy Holidays from the County Manager!

We are continuing to update our website. Our goal is to make it more user-friendly and informative. We are also trying to add as many online services as possible in hopes of being more efficient. Online services offered by the Register of Deeds, Tax Assessor and Tax Collection have cut down walk-in traffic. If you haven't visited the site lately, take a look at it, and you will see that you now can search records on the Register of Deeds webpage, and pay your taxes online, (links to both are on the home page). Speaking of paying your taxes,

don't forget to pay yours.

Even though times are still financially tough for the County, I am happy to announce that all employees will receive a 2½% cost-of-living increase in January. The Commissioners felt strongly that this be provided, and I hope you will thank them when you have the opportunity.

I hope that everyone has a safe and enjoyable holiday season. I wish you all a very Merry Christmas and a happy new year.

## How the Grinch Steals Christmas

Unfortunately, peace and goodwill are not the only things that are in abundance during the Christmas season. Criminal activity increases as well. The hustle and bustle of the season provides a distraction for thieves. Sheriff James Knight offers some tips to keep the Grinch from stealing Christmas:

- ✚ Always shop with a friend or relative
- ✚ When going shopping, tell someone where you are going and what time you expect to return.
- ✚ Shop during daylight hours, and park in well-lit areas.
- ✚ Dress casually and comfortably and avoid wearing expensive jewelry.
- ✚ Keep cash in your front pocket rather than your purse or wallet. This makes it much more difficult for a pick-pocket to remove.
- ✚ Keep your keys in a pants or coat pocket. If your purse is stolen, you will still be able to drive home.

- ✚ Pay careful attention to your surroundings and avoid overloading yourself with packages.
- ✚ When returning to your vehicle, check around it and in the back seat. Be aware of strangers approaching you for any reason.
- ✚ If you feel uneasy returning to your vehicle alone, ask a security guard to walk you to your car.
- ✚ Never leave items lying out in your car that will tempt a thief.
- ✚ At home, be sure to leave a light on, and have your house keys ready before you get out of the car.

If you do these things, you will be less of a target and increase your odds for a safe season. Let's see if we can keep that Grinch from stealing Christmas.





*Quote of the Month*

"Anything that is lost can be found, except time wasted."

Samuel L. Jackson  
in the movie "Fresh"

Answer to the  
brainteaser.

Yesterday, today &  
tomorrow.



*The Biggest Loser Competition*

The Edgecombe County Wellness Committee is gearing up the new year with a fantastic weight loss competition set to begin **January 14<sup>th</sup> - April 14<sup>th</sup>**. Here's the scoop:

- ✚ Interested employees pay a \$10 participation fee. You reach your goal, you get it back.
- ✚ The goal is to lose 5% of your weight (private weigh-ins provided)
- ✚ You will have 3 months to reach your goal using any weight loss method you desire except surgery.
- ✚ At the end of the contest, we have weigh-in again.
- ✚ The two employees who lose the highest % will win.

*Employee News and Announcements*

DSS is accepting donations of suitcases for foster children. Many of the children move from foster family to foster family, and some have no suitcase to carry their clothes; only grocery bags and boxes. Medium size suitcases are relatively inexpensive and would make a great gift for a child in need. You may take the suitcase to the main office in Tarboro.



Even though we recently had some much needed rain, a burning ban is still in effect for the County. Remember not to burn those leaves. They make great mulch.

*Protect Yourself While Shopping Online*

During the holiday season, online shopping can save you time and money—if it's done right. Protecting your personal information and ensuring the merchant is reputable are both key to avoid identity theft or simply being ripped off. Before clicking the checkout button, make sure these tips have been followed.

- ✚ **Know who you're dealing with.**  
Only use trusted merchants. If you are not sure, check them out with the Better Business Bureau
- ✚ **Check return/refund policies.**  
Don't skip the fine print, like you usually do. Pay special attention to their return policy. You don't want to be stuck with an item you are not satisfied with.

**The prizes**

**1<sup>st</sup> place - Choice of:**  
Nintendo Wii Bundle  
Treadmill (max. \$600)  
Full year membership at the health club of your choice (max \$600)

**2<sup>nd</sup> Place**

The cash remaining in the pool from those who didn't lose 5% plus \$50

To sign up, call Carolyn Hedgepeth, Frances Wright, Betty Battle, Jenny Newton, or Michelle Etheridge.

Let's get this New Year started right!!

Congratulations to Allen Peacock, Building Inspector. Allen is now Level I in all trades, which means he is certified to inspect Building, Plumbing, Electrical, & Mechanical.



The Water & Sewer Department recently completed its new **Operations Facility** located at the corner of Anaconda Road and McNair Road. Staff will be moving in soon



- ✚ **Make sure the site is secure.**  
Don't enter any personal information, such as credit card number, without ensuring its safe. There are two ways to tell. Look for a "lock" icon in the browser window (not on the webpage itself). Also, look at the web address. Be sure the page begins with "https" and not just "http"; this means all information you enter will be encrypted.

Don't let dishonest merchants or identity thieves scare you away from shopping online. You just need to shop smart—and now you can!