



Edgecombe County Employee Newsletter

February 2006

From the County Manager

Important Dates

- ◆ Commissioners Meeting
Mar 6th @ 7:00 PM
- ◆ Keep America Beautiful
April 29th (see related article)
- ◆ Budgets due to finance
from Dept. Heads March 10th

Quote of the Month

Happiness is having a large,
loving, caring, close-knit family
...in another city.

- George Burns

Primary Election is May 2, 2006

The deadline to register,
change address or to change
party affiliation is **April 7, 2006**.

Be sure to update your registration records and tell all your friends that voting is quick and easy when your information is accurate in the board of elections office and when you go to the correct precinct to vote.

For more info call the Board of
Elections 641-7852

Brain Teasers

Can you read the following?

**Y u r y y u b I c u r y y 4
me.**

The answers are posted on our website
www.edgecombecountync.gov

I would like to welcome Russell Childers aboard as the Interim Health Director. Russ came to us from Swain County which is located in the North Carolina Mountains. He is retired and has more than 30 years of service in public health. We are excited to have Russ as a part of our team.

A reminder that budgets are due from department and agency heads on March 10th. Your help and cooperation in

developing the FY 06-07 budget is greatly appreciated. The conservative approach that we used in the past is working and I encourage you to stay the course.

This year we have 75 employees who owe a total of \$23,576 in County property taxes. This is unacceptable. If you are one of the 75, you will notice that your pay check has been garnished. Property taxes is the largest source of revenue for the

County, and our jobs and salaries are directly tied to the amount of taxes that we collect. You should make extra effort to pay your taxes before penalties and interest are attached to the principal. County employees are the first group of employees that we garnish each year. This process costs us time and money and should not be happening.

Lorenzo Carmon

Featured Department/Agency **Planning, Inspections, & E-911 Addressing**

Director Ola Pittman and her 7 staff members in Planning, Inspections, & E-911 Addressing have their work cut out for them. As you can tell by the title of their department, they are doing a lot of things in a lot of areas. Their mission is to prepare, enforce, and educate the public on local rules and regulations as they pertain to the orderly growth and development of the county. They protect the lives and property of all citizens by enforcing proper construction and development methods, and utilizing state and local codes and ordinances.

They are responsible for issuing building permits and inspecting all new construction (including manufactured homes), renovations, and re-inspections of vacant buildings in rural Edgecombe County. In

addition, inspections services are provided to the Towns of Leggett, Princeville, Conetoe, Speed, Macclesfield and Pine-tops. Inspections are provided to ensure that construction is safe and in accordance with the N. C. Building Code and applicable ordinances of Edgecombe County. The inspectors also have the authority to condemn buildings that are unsafe for occupancy. The Planning Office also oversees land development planning and permitting. Included in this responsibility is administration of the county's Unified Development Ordinance (UDO) including Zoning, Subdivision, Mobile Home Park, Junk Vehicle, and Flood Damage Prevention. The Planning Office administers these ordinances in conjunction with the long-range

Land Development Plan for Edgecombe County. The purpose of land development planning is to ensure orderly growth and development patterns that will enhance the County's economic well being.

E-911 staff coordinates street naming and assignment of addresses for a comprehensive emergency services response database. This system accurately matches phone

numbers, names and addressed primarily for quick emergency response. They are about 65% complete in address-



ing the County.

This hardworking staff headed by Ola, who has 32 years with the county, continues to do a great job.

Minimum Payments Increase

submitted by Connie Sherrill, Cooperative Extension

Consumers sometimes fall into the trap of only making minimum monthly payments on credit charges. In the past, minimum payments primarily covered interest and fees, which kept many consumers in a continuous cycle of debt.

Federal banking regulators have recently issued guidelines to credit card companies and banks stating that monthly minimum payments should cover interest, any fees and at least 1% of the borrowed amount. This change will help consumers improve their financial situation by paying off their balances earlier and paying less interest.

How much of a difference will be real-

ized from increased minimum payments? According to Bankrate.com, it could take over 26 years to pay off a \$5,000 credit card balance at 18%, with a 2.5% minimum payment. The interest charges on the \$5,000 loan would be \$7,115.42. With an increased 4% minimum payment, the \$5,000 credit card balance at 18% could be paid off in about 12 years and the interest charges would be \$2,915.66.

Of course minimum payments



are not the best choice for families who would like to be debt free. The best option when it comes to credit charges is to pay off the balance each month. If this is not possible, try to make more than the minimum payment. If the budget is really tight, always make at least the minimum payment to avoid late fees and higher interest rates.

If you or someone you know needs help with setting up a budget or other personal finance assistance, call Connie at 641-7823

Spring Cleaning

Spring cleaning is just around the corner! Keep America Beautiful of Nash & Edgecombe Counties is encouraging organizations to participate in the Twin Counties Greater American Cleanup Campaign. Edgecombe County needs your help in answering the call! This spring, employees can make a visible difference in Edgecombe County by joining other volunteer groups for a county wide cleanup effort being planned for **Saturday, April 29th at River Front Park from 8 am to 12 noon.**

For more information or to register in this year's Twin Counties Great American Cleanup, call Keep America Beautiful of Nash & Edgecombe Counties at (252) 972-1327. Complimentary trash bags, gloves, and safety vests will be supplied. Volunteers can show they care year round because **T-shirts will be given to all volunteers!** Also, there's a chance to win great prizes and giveaways. Please join us in making Edgecombe County clean and beautiful this spring!



Tricks of the Trade - Tips for Improving Work Performance



You have probably seen the Olympics on television here recently. You may have wondered how those athletes can get themselves to that level of physical fitness. Well, the same strategies they employ are principles we can use in our pursuit of Improving Work Performance. Consider these:

- ◆ **Learn the fundamentals** - There are basic skills and knowledge you must have to be able to do your job. This may sound trivial, but you know you

have seen a coworker who deals with written correspondence every day, but barely know how to turn their computer on, much less type a letter using *Word*. Make sure you are not of those employees. Know *your* fundamentals.

- ◆ **Strength training** - an athlete identifies his or her weak body parts and trains them. You too should recognize yours and work on them. Afraid of speaking before people, start with small groups of people you know well and work your way up. Not good with computers (or not sure because you can't turn yours on to find out), take a beginners class and keep working on it.

- ◆ **Stretching** - Try something new, take on an assignment you have never done before. Growth requires stretching. If you don't care to grow, or are afraid to, then sit back and watch the rest of us race right past you across the finish line.
- ◆ **Rest** - An over-trained athlete is as destined to lose as an under-trained one. Good athletes know how to rest. And so should we. We should give it all we have at work, stretch and grow so we will contribute to the people of Edgecombe County. But when it time to rest....REST!!!!