

Brunswick *Spotlight*

Our Mission

The government of Brunswick County, North Carolina exists to promote and sustain a superior quality of life. In partnership with our communities, we pledge to deliver cost effective services in a personal, responsive, respectful and innovative manner, to our residents and visitors alike.

DSS Sets Foster/Adoptive Orientation Meeting



Brunswick County Department of Social Services is asking interested residents to make a difference in children's lives by opening their homes as foster/adoptive parents.

The Brunswick County Department of Social Services has set a foster/adoptive orientation session for 6:00 pm on June 20 to provide information on the process of becoming a licensed foster parent. The orientation will be

held at the Department of Social Services building located at 60 Government Center Drive, Bolivia.

The orientation is open to anyone interested in providing a home for children in the foster care system.

For more information, call social worker Tamela Jones at 253-2112.



Child Safety - It's No ACCIDENT!

As we gear up for the summer season and families spend more time outside on our beautiful Brunswick County beaches, the Department of Social Services reminds parents and caregivers to follow some simple safety tips.:

- Know where your child is at ALL times, it only takes a second for child to wander off
- Never allow one child to be responsible for another even for a few minutes
- Always apply sun screen (SPF 15 or higher) and bug spray. Reapply EVERY 30 minutes. A hat, sunglasses and loose fitting clothing can also protect your child.
- If you are thirsty your child is thirsty. Drink lots of water when enjoying the summer sun.
- Never allow a child to be alone at the Beach or near a Pool. Children can drown in as little as a few inches of water.
- Never leave your child alone in a car (air conditioned or not it's against the law)

Enjoy Summer, enjoy the sun, enjoy your family. Just don't forget: **Child Safety- It's No Accident!**

CHILD ABUSE PREVENTION MONTH ACTIVITIES



April was filled with activities supporting child abuse prevention efforts in the county. From Health Department car seat checks to Waves 4 K.I.D.S. gala fundraiser to support children in at risk situations; from Coastal Horizons presentation on substance use disorders and how they affect children to the fifth annual Flower Launch presented by the Community Child Protection Team, numerous staff members from public and private agencies in Brunswick County came out to support child abuse prevention efforts.

The highlight of the month brought families, professionals and volunteers together at the Southport waterfront for the annual Flower Launch to honor all citizens who help to protect children. Winners of the elementary school poster contest on "The Power of Play" were recognized. District Court Judge, Sherry Dew Tyler, spoke about the prevention efforts going on in the county and presented the first annual "Pinwheel Award" to Alyson Nowicki, formerly of the Carousel Center. The pinwheel is used as a symbol of hope and promise for the protection of children, and pinwheel gardens were seen throughout April at many locations on the government complex in Bolivia and throughout the county.



FOSTER PARENT APPRECIATION

On May 23rd Brunswick County DSS Children's Services Unit, honored foster parents with an appreciation dinner at The Purple Onion in Shallotte. Mr. Don Seeber, Children services Program Administrator, along with DSS Board members, Mr. Charles Warren and Ms. Elsie Peterson joined with social workers in thanking the foster parents with certificates of appreciation, kind heartfelt words from staff, gifts and a delicious meal. Judge Sherry Tyler, District Court 13, was the quest speaker for the evening. Judge Tyler shared her thoughts of the day saying 'today is the first day of the rest of your life' by describing how when a child takes their first step into a foster home, how that moment becomes the first day of the rest of the child's life. Judge Tyler thanked the foster parents for opening their homes by providing a safe, nurturing and loving environment for the children to grow and begin their first day of the rest of their life.



Mr. and Mrs. Wanice Hewett received the foster parent of the year award for their twenty-three years of dedicated service for children. Mr. and Mrs. Hewett answer their phone when social workers are in need of providing a safe place for children no matter if the call is during the day or in the early morning hours. They are foster parents who seem to take everything in stride and are always there for children and their families. They are truly experts with the children they foster.

No matter how much time you have to give, you have the power to do something positive that will be the first day of the rest of a child's life. For more information on how you can help, please contact Tamela Jones of Brunswick County Department of Social Services at 910-253-2112.



A Day In The Yard!

This year North Carolina Cooperative Extension implemented a new program for those who are interested in learning about gardening but may not have the time to meet the requirements of the Master Gardener program. A Day In the Yard is a six week course taught by Brunswick County Master Gardeners. The class covers soil and fertilization, woody ornamentals and pruning, diseases, insects and pesticides, vegetables and fruit as well as lawn and irrigation. We have successfully run three programs with 79 participants. The next class is scheduled to begin September 7th – October 12th at the Bolivia Complex from 10:00-12:00. There is a \$60.00 charge to cover course material.

This program gives Master Gardeners an opportunity to give back to the community and share their knowledge with others who need assistance.

Employee of the Quarter



The staff of the Brunswick County Health Department recently selected Dr. Ron Monk as Employee of the Quarter for January – March, 2011. Dr. Monk is a Soil Scientist and performs soil analysis for septic site permits. He has worked at the Health Department for 11 years.

PICTURE: Presenting the award to Dr. Monk is Phil Tripp, Chair of the Board of Health

In the Spotlight...

Submitted by Jeff Brown, Vector Control Project Coordinator for Brunswick County

The Water Management Division of the Operation Service Department has a unique mission. The division has been run by Freddie Hickman for the last 30 years. His mission, make sure the named streams in the County are functional. His division works to maintain over 200 named streams in the County. Freddie, in conjunction with the United States Army Corps of Engineers, developed Best Management Practices (BMP's) for woody debris removal in the county's major rivers and streams.

I have done several snagging projects with Freddie over the years. When Freddie finds a project, the first thing that he says is "we need to help these people". Then it's off to the swamp. The work is physically

demanding. Freddie's incredibly positive attitude and enthusiasm make the work enjoyable. Freddie's mantra is, "if you come to work with me, you can give up your gym membership". All the snagging work is done by hand because where the crew works there is not access for heavy equipment. The one thing I have learned from Freddie Hickman over the years is that you will not out work him. I tried. Others 30 years younger have tried, but at the end of the day Freddie's smiling as he looks down the swamp and can see what his team has done to help the people of Brunswick County.



DID YOU KNOW?

Most everyone knows that when you mention Cooperative Extension, Master Gardeners and 4-H come to mind. Did you know that this agency also provides other services to the community?

Pesticide Collection Day

NCDACS and the NC Cooperative Extension Service are co-sponsoring a Pesticide Collection Day for farmers, homeowners and customers of pesticide dealers in Brunswick County. The date of the collection is June 1st and will be held in the parking lot behind North Carolina Cooperative Extension office (Building "N") where the greenhouses are located in the Brunswick County Government Center in Bolivia. Our primary objective is to assist farmers, landscapers, golf courses, and others depending upon the circumstances and the quantity of material they possess. If you have pesticides larger than 5 gallons please notify Susan Brown at 910-253-2610.

Food Preservation Class and Pressure Canner Testing

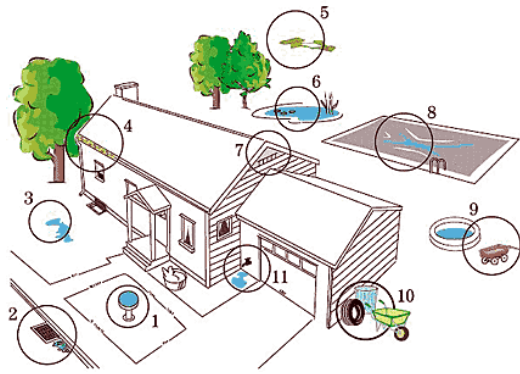
A second Food Preservation Class will be offered on June 17th. Cost of the class (\$20) includes a canning book "So Easy to Preserve". Topics covered include; when to harvest, yields, costs, pros and cons of "doing it yourself", food spoilage and using the proper equipment. To register, please call (910)253-2610. Class size is limited. Pressure canner testing will be done June 10th from 11:30am until 1:30pm and is free of charge. You simply bring your canner lid with the gauge attached. For questions please call the extension office at 253-2610.

Household Mosquito Control

The Asian Tiger Mosquito (*Aedes albopictus*) is most commonly found within 300 feet of a home. Homeowners can reduce their risk by eliminating mosquito breeding sites and protecting themselves from mosquito bites.

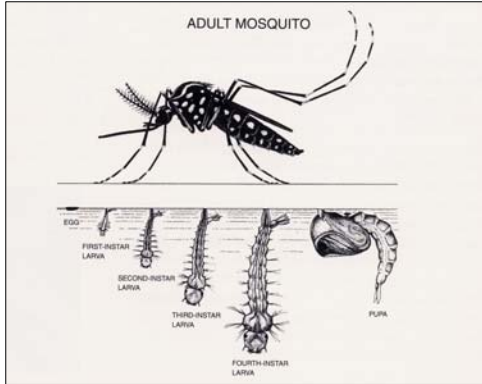
What homeowners can do:

- Empty or recycle containers in your yard that can collect water, like tires, buckets, bottles and plastic tarps.
- Change water in pet bowls and bird baths at least twice a week.
- Cover unused swimming pools.
- Clean clogged rain gutters.
- Repair leaky outdoor faucets.



Protect yourself from mosquito bites:

- Wear long-sleeved shirts and pants.
- Avoid being outdoors when there are a lot of mosquitoes, such as at dawn and dusk.
- Avoid areas where there are lots of mosquitoes.
- Use repellents with DEET (25 % or less for adults, 10% or less for children) to prevent mosquito bites, following label instructions.



The life cycle of a mosquito. The larval stages are always found in water.

For more information contact Brunswick County Mosquito Control at (910) 253-2515.

You may also email us at: op-svcs@brunscoco.net.

Brunswick County Landfill Swap Shop / Paint Exchange Building

Located at the Brunswick County Landfill, right beside the scale house, is a building where Brunswick County residents may place usable household items for others to take. Items such as chairs, tables, yard furniture, flower pots, and books may be placed in the building free of charge. You may also take items out of the building free of charge. This is an excellent way to extend the life of an item and conserve landfill space. Usable paint is also allowed to be placed in the building. All paint containers must be completely closed and labeled with the color and type (latex/oil based) on the outside of the container. Please only leave paint containers that are about half way full to ensure that there will be enough for someone to do a project with.

No hazardous material such as household cleaners, solvents, pesticides are allowed to be placed in the building. For information on how to properly dispose of such items please contact the Brunswick County Solid Waste Office at 910-253-2524.

To receive the latest information about available solid waste programs and events in Brunswick County sign up to receive the Keep Brunswick County Beautiful monthly e-newsletter. To be placed on this email list send a request to kthompson@brunscoco.net.



FUN IN THE SUN!!



Looking for something fun and FREE to do this summer? Check out the free summer concerts and movies in the Brunswick County

Parks and Recreation Summer 2011 Program Guide. The Guide can be found at <http://www.brunswickcountync.gov/Departments/CommunityServices/ParksandRecreation/NewslettersBrochures.aspx>. While you're there, check out the many other activities offered through Parks and Recreation, such as summer camps, athletics, trips, swim and tennis lessons and much more. There is something for everyone!

Registration fees apply for most activities.

Temporary Department Locations



Building I

A few departments have temporarily moved due to renovations to Building I.

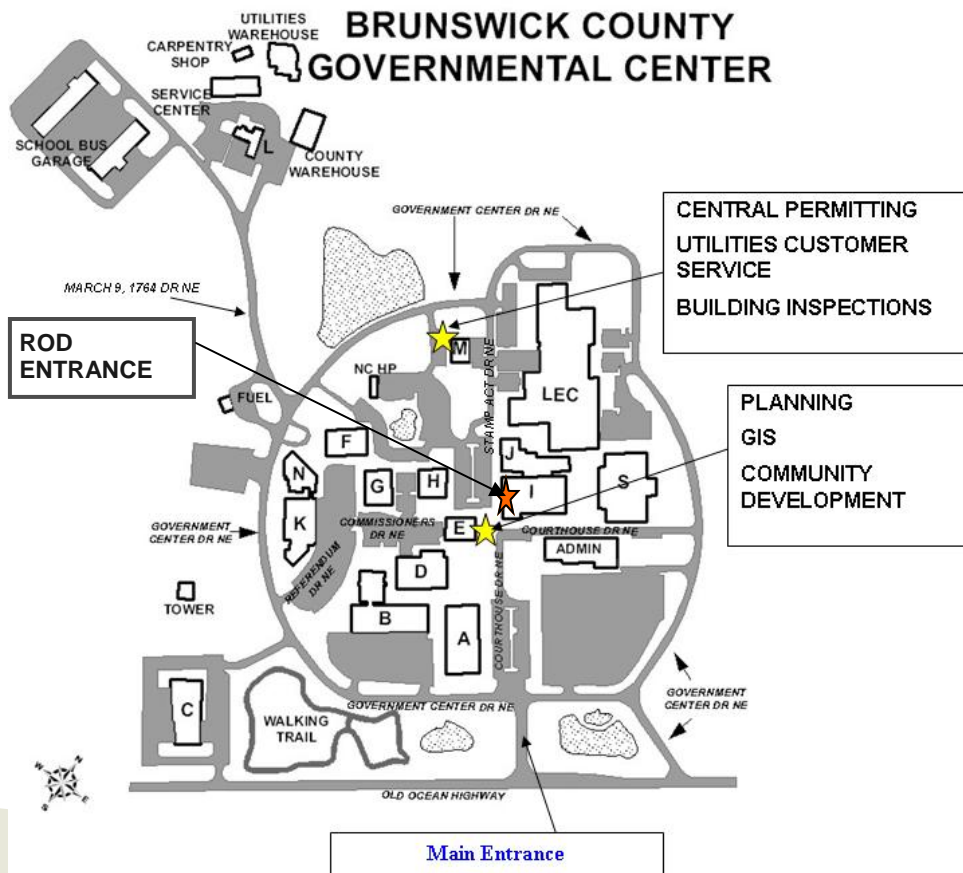
Central Permitting, Utilities Customer Service and Building Inspections have moved to Building M.

Planning, GIS and Community Development have moved to Building E.

The Register of Deeds office will remain in Building I throughout the renovations. Please note that the entrance to the Register of Deeds office is temporarily located on the left side of the building.

We apologize for any inconvenience you may experience during the renovation process and hope to have the departments back in Building I in a few months.

BRUNSWICK COUNTY GOVERNMENTAL CENTER



Holiday Closings

Government Center offices will be closed:

- Monday, May 30th—Memorial Day
- Monday, July 4th—Independence Day
- Monday, September 5th—Labor Day