County employees were honored for service milestones April 26 during the annual Employee Recognition Ceremony in the Judge E. Maurice Braswell Courthouse. The ceremony capped off the month-long National County Government Month celebrations, observed in April.

Employees may go to the County’s Intranet page to see photos from the ceremony. Look under “Special Announcements” and click on the Employee Anniversary – April 2019 link.

Terry Elliott marked 45 years of service with the County this year. Pictured with Sheriff Ennis Wright, Elliott was hired in August 1973 and has been a traffic control officer her entire career with the Sheriff’s Office. She is currently a traffic control officer at Warrenwood Elementary School.

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<th>20 YEARS</th>
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<tr>
<td>Fred Adams</td>
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<td>Alberto Alcala</td>
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<td>Bridgett Autry</td>
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<td>Jeffrey Benenhaley</td>
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<td>Catherine Carter</td>
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<td>Thomas Leggette IV</td>
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<td>Linda Thomas</td>
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<td>Antoniette Wright-Harris</td>
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<td>Kenneth Bailey</td>
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<td>David Dowless</td>
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<td>Betty Jackson</td>
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<tr>
<td>Terry Elliott</td>
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<td>Betty Jackson</td>
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<td>Callie Gardner</td>
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Congratulations to all employees!
County Recognition Ceremony

Sheriff's Office

From left, Joseph Yergeau, Wayne Cannon, Gary Dukes, Melodie Robinson, David Dowless, Terry Ray, Charles Parker and Lem Morgan

Veterans Services

From left, Monishia Bland, Todd Shockley, Joanie Rodriguez, County Manager Amy Cannon, Veterans Services Director Eric Redrick and Assistant County Manager Duane Holder.

Legal

Myra Brooks (right), pictured with Assistant County Attorney Bob Hasty, celebrates 20 years with the County.

Library

From left, Pamela Kource, Martha Crawley and Catherine Carter with Assistant Library Director Cotina Jones

Social Services

From left, Vivian Tookes, Adrian Black, Sandy Connor, Kristin Bonoyer, Quezty Cotto-Almodovar, Gloria Strickland, Francis Jackson, Toni Wright-Harris, Betty Jackson, Angela Wall, Kimberly Glover, Tammy Martin, Latasha Smith, Gwendolyn Denson and Patricia Hammonds. Back row from left, Erica Bullard-Walker, Bobbie Reading, Vanessa McLain-Gray, Crystal Black and Debbie Gear

Tax Administration

From left, Tax Administrator Joe Utley, Amy Kinlaw, Johnny Scott, Gwen Izzell, Sharon Ford, Linda Thomas, Jeff Benenhaley, Jennifer Parks, Sandra Napier and Megan Williford.
Scarlett Burgess and Whitley Lyons enjoy popcorn at the circus-themed event.

Step right up! Sandra Faith-Simmons tries her hand at the ping pong toss while Social Work Supervisor Toni Wright-Harris looks on.

DSS Staff Attend UNC School of Social Work Job Fair

Department of Social Services staff members attended the annual University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill School of Social Work Career Day/Job Fair on April 1. The Job Fair gave students in undergraduate and graduate level Social Work programs a chance to explore the various social work careers at Cumberland County DSS. Approximately 134 students attended this event, which allowed DSS to recruit students for current and future job openings.

Sharon McLeod, Children’s Services Section Chief (left), and Oleria Thomas, Staff Development Specialist from Department of Social Services at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill, School of Social Work Annual Career Day/Job Fair.

DSS Observes Child Abuse Prevention Month with Pinwheel Planting Ceremony

Department of Social Services staff observed Child Abuse Prevention Month, held in April, with a Pinwheels for Prevention ceremony April 12. Staff members planted the blue and silver pinwheels at entrances and along Ramsey Street. Children Services Supervisor Carlina Simmons read the Governor’s Proclamation in support of Child Abuse Prevention Month. Pictured at left are Simmons with DSS Director Brenda Reid Jackson.

3
Central Maintenance Facility Fleet Supervisor Ron Cooper has retired after a 20-year career with the County. Cooper was honored with a retirement party April 26. As fleet maintenance supervisor, Cooper was responsible for the upkeep of more than 500 County vehicles including 388 Sheriff’s Office vehicles. “My background was in maintenance and I took seriously my job of serving the people of the County by ensuring that the best quality maintenance was being performed and that we were at a high state of readiness,” Cooper said.

A Brooklyn, NY, native, Cooper came to the County after serving 26 years and 3 months in the Army. A veteran of Desert Storm, Cooper retired as command sergeant major of the 782nd Maintenance Battalion, 82nd Airborne Division.

Cooper said he considers County Manager Amy Cannon, Sheriff Ennis Wright and former Sheriff Earl “Moose” Butler mentors.

“Overall, I’ve been very blessed to have Amy Cannon as a mentor and see her become the county manager,” Cooper said. “Sheriff Butler and Sheriff Wright were also great mentors and great to work with.”

In retirement, Cooper said he plans to take care of his mother-in-law, stay active in St. Patrick’s Catholic Church and travel. Cooper and his wife Debbie have been married 48 years and have two grown children and three grandchildren.

Ron Cooper, center, celebrates his retirement with (left to right), Taylor Jarrett, David Cameron, Ronald Cooper, Sharon Davis and Milton Bazemore.

Adams Named FTCC Honorary Trustee

The Fayetteville Technical Community College Board of Trustees and FTCC President Dr. Larry Keen named Commissioner Glenn B. Adams as Honorary Trustee of the College and Board of Trustees.

Dr. Keen and Board Chair Ronald Crosby Jr. presented the distinguished honor to Adams at the April 15 Board of Trustees meeting. The designation of honorary trustee recognizes an individual for exceptional service and support of the College through the years.

From left, FTCC President Dr. Larry Keen, Commissioner Glenn Adams, Adams’ wife Superior Court Judge Gale Adams and FTCC Board of Trustees Chair Ronald Crosby Jr.
Meet Solid Waste Director

Amanda Bader

Amanda Bader has been Cumberland County’s Solid Waste Management director since January. Bader was the County Engineer and Solid Waste Director for Harnett County before she came to Cumberland. She has 23 years of experience and holds three degrees from N.C. State University – a bachelor’s degree in Environmental Engineering as well as bachelor’s and master’s degrees in Civil Engineering. Bader said she is excited about the future of serving Cumberland County’s citizens through responsible and efficient waste management. “It is exciting to be a part of such a big, vibrant program. We are more than just the landfill or ‘the dump,’” she said. “We impact our citizens’ lives every day. We are environmental stewards with boots on the ground every day.”

Get to know Amanda through a County Connection Question & Answer interview below:

Where are you from?
I’m from the Meadow community of southern Johnston County.

How did you get interested in engineering?
I grew up on a farm and I have always loved math and science. I have known that I wanted to be an engineer since the fourth grade when we studied hydroelectric energy. At the time that I applied to the engineering school at N.C. State, the Environmental Engineering Program was just being accredited. The curriculum seemed to be the perfect marriage of applied science and water and earth for this farm girl.

What are your goals as Cumberland County Solid Waste director?
Waste diversion is essential for Cumberland County as we see space at the current site dwindling. It is our job to get the word out about not only the value of recycling, but more importantly the importance of reduction in the use of materials and promoting the reuse of materials. Reduction and reuse are higher on the solid waste hierarchy than recycling. Recycling requires more energy to change a material into something else. Bring your own bags to the store and using durable goods such as water bottles and cutlery instead of disposable items. Do what you can to prevent food spoilage and waste. Did you know that garbage is about 22 percent food waste? Our ultimate goal is to provide long term management of the County’s waste stream. It’s a partnership with our citizens that involves many approaches and finding efficiencies wherever we can.

What trends are you seeing in waste management?
We should consider our solid waste program as a resource management program. The buzzwords and phrases in recycling are “circular economy” and “reduce contamination in recycling.” For instance, when a can or bottle is produced, it requires energy and raw materials. That embedded energy needs to be captured and not put in the landfill. It needs to stay in the circle. China has banned our recyclable goods because of the high rate of contamination. We need to focus on the quality of our recycled materials, not the quantity. Only fill your bin with material that you know is recyclable. Make sure that those recyclables are clean and dry. Treat them like the commodity that they are. Imagine what food residual smells like in a shipping container for weeks. It doesn’t smell like a valuable resource in a circular economy.

Department of Social Services Adds New Leadership

Vivian Tookes, former CCDSS Economic Services Section Chief, has been promoted to Assistant Director of Economic Services. A U.S. Army veteran, Ms. Tookes’ career with the agency spans over 35 years. She began here as an Eligibility Specialist in the Aid to Families with Dependent Children (AFDC) Section. Ms. Tookes’ other assignments have been as a Social Worker and Program Manager in multi-faceted disciplines to include Crisis Intervention, Preventative Services, and Employment Services.

Ms. Tookes is a graduate of E. E. Smith High School, Fayetteville State University (BA in Sociology), and earned her master’s degree in Human Relations from Webster University.

Carr Returns to DSS

Chris Carr, a former staff attorney at Cumberland County DSS for 8 years, has returned to the agency as Assistant Director of Legal Operations. Most recently, Carr worked for the Guilford County Attorney’s Office. Carr earned his bachelor’s degree and law degree from Campbell University. Carr has many years of experience in juvenile court as a parent’s attorney. In private law practice, he represented Cumberland County DSS from 2009 until March 2017 and then Guilford County DSS from April 2017 until April 2019.
Welcome to Wheel of Fortune. The category is Emergency Services 911 telecommunicator. Thirteen letters. If you would like to solve the puzzle, the answer is KORIAN MAJETTE.

Majette appeared as a contestant on the popular game show Wheel of Fortune on April 18. Majette won $8,800 in prize money, a trip to the Bahamas and the exciting opportunity to be on national television with two of the most iconic game show hosts in history – Pat Sajak and Vanna White.

Majette's journey to appear on “The Wheel” started with an application, followed by an audition in Myrtle Beach, where contestant hopefuls were given timed word puzzles to solve. Two weeks later, Majette was told he had been selected to appear on Wheel of Fortune. He traveled to California and taped the episode in March at the Sony Pictures Studios in Culver City (next door to studios for the game show Jeopardy).

Majette prepared for the show by watching the show every day and playing the Wheel of Fortune app. Majette said he didn't need much motivation, since he has long been a fan of the show.

“I’m a huge fan of Wheel of Fortune and game shows in general, so this was a dream come true for me,” Majette said. “I’ve been watching the show probably since I could talk and yell out letters.”

Wheel of Fortune first aired in 1975 and ranks as the longest-running syndicated game show in the United States, with over 6,000 episodes aired. Majette said he is proud to have been a part of “America’s Game Show.”

“To become part of the show’s legacy is amazing,” he said.

Majette observed that the game show wheel looked much smaller in real life than on TV, but it is also heavy and requires a strong arm to turn.

Watch Majette's appearance on Youtube at https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=nM-akExP4lg.

Senior Helper Bill Diaz a New Face in the Courthouse

There is a new face in the Judge E. Maurice Braswell Cumberland County Courthouse. William “Bill” Diaz is working at the Information Desk on the first floor, answering questions for people who come to the Courthouse for court or county business. Diaz has been a client of the Cumberland County Senior Community Service Employment Program since 2015. He formerly worked at the information desk in the E. Newton Smith Center before coming to the Courthouse. “I think it's a great program and I enjoy working with people,” Diaz said of the Senior Employment Program.

A native of Colombia, Diaz immigrated to the United States with his family when he was 12 years old. They settled in Chicago, which would be Diaz’ home until he left to join the U.S. Army in 1964. Diaz later volunteered for service in Vietnam and instead got stationed in Germany. Diaz wrote U.S. Sen. Everett Dirksen of Illinois, who helped Diaz fulfill his wish. Diaz went to Vietnam in 1967 and deployed numerous times to Vietnam through 1972. Diaz got out of the Army in 1982.

While in Vietnam, Diaz met and married Nguyen Dieu Lan and she back home with him. They were married 46 years before she passed away in 2013. The couple repaired and re-upholstered furniture and Diaz also enjoyed a lengthy career in the financial collections industry before he retired. Now, Diaz has another chance at fulfilling employment through the Senior Community Service Employment Program.

WELCOME ABOARD!
NEW EMPLOYEES

Latrina Bell
Santanna Bishop
Lori Caldwell
Traci Cardenas
Elizabeth Cherry
Marie Depietro
Jasmine Dudley
Jeremiah Fennell
Nakia Gause

Angelica George
Rebecca Graham
Ebony Green
Rhonda Hatcher
Victor Leath
Saneeka Martinez
Marc McClain
Brittany Melvin
Lola Melvin

Geoffrey Middlebrooks
David Munoz
Iris Nieves
Tiffany Peacoe
Bruce Ramsey
Mindy Reid
Kevin Salsbury
The HOPE Program is a worksite wellness opportunity for any employee who has been employed with Cumberland County for at least 6 months and agrees to the terms of the plan. This plan was designed to promote better health among employees and has been a tremendous success with positive effects and results. County Management has authorized that the HOPE Program continue indefinitely.

1. Employees who want to participate must have Department Head approval.
2. Employees signing an agreement to participate will be allowed to use 30-minutes before work, added to their lunch hour, or at the end of the day as long as the time is used for exercise or health classes. This 30-minute option is available to the employee up to three (3) times per week. Employees are encouraged to exercise with a co-worker also enrolled in HOPE. Participants may opt to exercise alone or at a local fitness facility that requires members to sign in.
3. This 30-minute incentive is contingent upon supervisor approval. Employees who use it must have supervisor approval and arrange section coverage with their co-workers who will fill in for them during their lunch/health and physical activity. NO EXCEPTIONS.
4. Employees who use the 30-minute Incentive must sign out in a log to be maintained in each department.
5. Employees participating in any HOPE activity must sign a Release of Liability form in order to participate.

Cumberland County does not assume any responsibility for employees experiencing medical problems resulting from participation in any formal or informal exercise program. Participants should consult their physician prior to engaging in physical activity.

Cumberland County, the City of Fayetteville and nine partner organizations have launched a survey to gather residents’ input for a new community-branding platform. This research is part of an intensive project to create an updated and unified approach to communicating the area’s strengths, assets, diversity, vision, and potential.

All County employees and community members are encouraged to take the 15-minute, anonymous survey on the web, on a mobile device, or at their local library at https://www.brandingfcnc.com.
Benefits Open Enrollment Coming Soon! | May 7th – 20th, 2019

Enrollment is Easy! There are no changes to this year’s benefit package. There will be two ways to review and make changes to your current benefit elections.

1) Online Enrollment Portal: The InfinityHR open enrollment website, the same website we used last year, will be open May 7th – 20th for you to login and self-enroll at https://www.infinityhr.com/. You will need your userID and Password to access your account. Instructions to reset your ID and / or Password can be found on the homepage.

2) Benefits Counselor Assistance: For detailed benefits information and assisted online enrollment during the open enrollment period. Employees have several opportunities to meet with a counselor this year.
   - Walk-In or Set an Appointment (appointments are recommended to avoid a wait) at any of the scheduled General Meeting Locations below:
     - County Courthouse Room 119: May 7th, 14th, 17th from 9am – 5pm
     - DSS Building Meeting Room A: May 9th, 13th, 16th from 9am – 5pm
   - Designated departments will have a counselor available onsite.

To Schedule an Online Appointment with a Benefits Counselor:
1. Go to: https://meetme.so/CumberlandCo (case sensitive - please enter exactly as seen)
2. Select the desired appointment day and time
3. Provide your first and last name, phone number, and email address
4. Finalize your appointment * You will receive an email confirmation with your scheduled meeting date and time along with reminder emails/text 24 hours and 1 hour before your scheduled time. Should you need to reschedule your appointment for any reason, please do so by clicking on the "re-schedule" button in your original confirmation email.

Important Reminders
- You MUST re-enroll in your Flexible Spending Account (all other benefits will roll over).
- Spouses currently eligible under their employer’s medical insurance are not eligible to be enrolled in the County’s medical plan. If your otherwise eligible spouse does not have a medical plan available as a benefit of employment, you must submit a copy of the Spouse Employment Affidavit.
- Any new elections or policy changes will take effect July 1st, 2019
Blood Drive

Cumberland County Courthouse

Wednesday, May 22  12 – 3 p.m.

To sign up, call Jon Soles at 910-321-6579 or visit www.savingliveslocally.org.
Search by Sponsor Code: M25

Eat a healthy meal before your donation. Please bring photo identification.

Every donor will receive a T-shirt, while supplies last!

#savingliveslocally
Can’t make it to the Employee Health Clinic or your primary care provider? Try MDLIVE!

Employees and family members covered under the County’s Blue Cross and Blue Shield policy can visit with a doctor or medical professional online or by phone with BCBS MDLIVE.

It’s the peak of flu season and appointments at the Employee Wellness Clinic may be limited. Telehealth through MDLIVE could be a reasonable option!

**MDLIVE** is available 24/7 and is $30 co-pay per use.

**MDLIVE** doctors can diagnose symptoms, prescribe non-narcotic medication and send prescriptions to your pharmacy.

**Don’t wait until you are sick, activate today!**

1. Download the MDLIVE app on your smartphone or tablet
2. **Or** go to [mdlive.com/ncvideodoc](https://mdlive.com/ncvideodoc) and click “Activate Now”
3. **Or** call 888-657-9982

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**MISSION STATEMENT**
To provide quality services to our citizens while being fiscally responsible.

**VISION STATEMENT**
To grow as a regional destination for employment, economic development, commerce and cultural pursuits.

**CORE VALUES**
Serving Cumberland County citizens with **PRIDE**

- Professionalism
- Respect
- Integrity with Accountability
- Diversity
- Excellent Customer Service

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**Amy Cannon**
County Manager
County Manager’s Office
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910-678-7723
acannon@co.cumberland.nc.us

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**co.cumberland.nc.us**