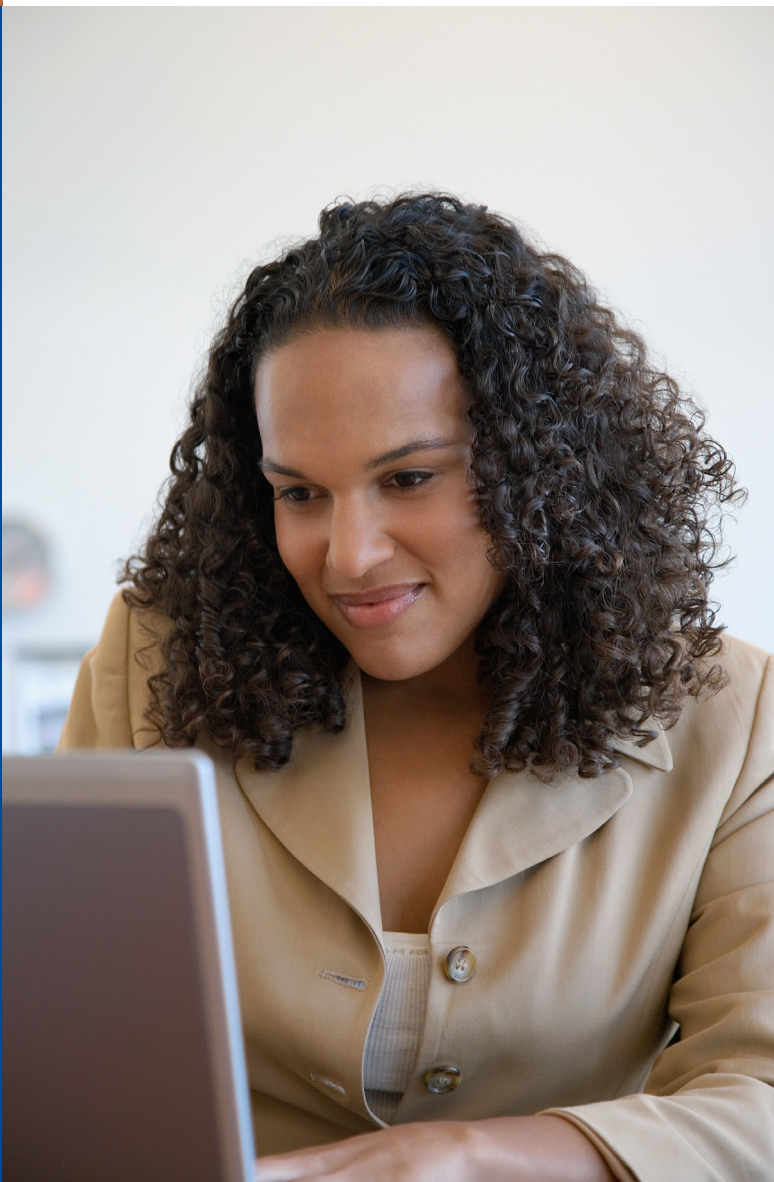




Connecting With Cumberland County



Annual Report to Our Citizens

Fiscal Year 2008–2009

Chairman's Comments



Jeannette Council

CUMBERLAND COUNTY is the fifth most populous county in North Carolina with more than 302,000 people. From the urban center of Fayetteville to eight smaller towns, including the newest municipality of Eastover, the county encompasses 661 square miles. From the rural roadways through Falcon, Beaver Dam and Godwin, to the busy commercial, retail and military centers, you can find almost anything you're looking for in Cumberland County.

Your Cumberland County government services are as diverse as our county, and we are continually striving to connect with our citizens through our vast array of programs and in our efforts to keep you informed on governmental issues.

This annual report is a general overview of what happened in fiscal 2009. In it, we highlight just a few of Cumberland County's accomplishments. In the past year, we have taken steps toward improving public safety and water quality for our residents.

Faced with

substantial state funding cuts during the steep economic downturn, the county weathered the fiscal storm with disciplined budgeting and strong financial management.

We are well-equipped to meet the challenges ahead and are confident in our county's fiscal stability as we prepare for the arrival in the next few years of the thousands of military members, civilian employees and their families who will relocate here because of Base Realignment and Closure. We look forward to opening two new county buildings in 2010 -- a new Health Department and a public library in the western part of the county.



Board of Commissioners

Seated (l to r): Billy R. King, Jeannette Council, Kenneth Edge
Standing (l to r): Breeden Blackwell, Marshall Faircloth,
Jimmy Keefe, Ed Melvin

Jeannette Council, 2009 Chairman
Cumberland County Board of Commissioners

Connecting With Cumberland County

Highlights

Governmental

- County Courthouse renovation project was completed and won Joint Appearance Commission award.
- **Planning & Inspections Department** started allowing residents to track the status of inspections online.



Safety

- Close to 1,000 dogs and 300 cats found new homes through **Animal Services'** adoption program. The County Commissioners banned the chaining of dogs with an anti-tethering ordinance.
- **Cumberland County Sheriff's Office** reported that overall uniform crime reports for property crimes in Cumberland County are down 16 percent from last year; larceny cases are down 23 percent; and residential burglaries are down 18 percent from 2008. The Sheriff's Office put bait cars, designed to detain thieves until law enforcement arrive on the scene to make an arrest, on the street in an effort to capture car thieves.
- **Emergency Services** – The Sheriff's Office dispatch was merged under the Cumberland County 911 Center. A Public Safety Task Force was created to establish standards and make recommendations on how to improve fire, communications and emergency medical services. A report is expected in early 2010.

Health/Environment

- Fourteen County departments were certified as "**Green Businesses.**"
- The **Safe Water Task Force** continued to address the challenge of providing clean safe water to all residents of Cumberland County. The group published a brochure and Web site . Engineering consultants submitted the **Cumberland County Rural Water Feasibility Study.**
- In addition to its routine work, the **Public Health Department** performed some tuberculosis "mass-screening programs" for hundreds of individuals exposed to confirmed cases of TB at their daycares, schools or workplaces. In preparation for the mass vaccination against the H1N1 Pandemic Flu in the fall, the Health Department began coordinating community efforts. The new Health Department building will open in early 2010.
- The **Soil & Water Conservation District** received a grant to purchase 10 pet waste disposal stations to go in four large public parks and the dog park.
- The **Cumberland County Mental Health Center** received three Awards of Excellence from the N.C. Council of Community Programs.

- The **Mental Health Center** received official notice of a three-year national accreditation from CARF for the non-hospital medical detoxification services at the Roxie Avenue Center, as well as a three-year expedited national accreditation from the Council on Accreditation. The Crisis Intervention Team (CIT) Program was implemented and the first Academy held with 22 law enforcement officials completing the week-long 40-hour training course. The training provides them with skills to recognize mental illness and react to it appropriately utilizing community resources, such as the Mental Health Center and Mobile Crisis Units. The center also began contracting with Fluent Language Solutions telephonic to provide interpreting services. The company maintains interpreters in more than 180 languages, including the 48 languages spoken in Cumberland County.

Cultural Opportunities

- The **Cumberland County Public Library & Information Center** broke ground on the new West Regional Branch library; started a Book-a-Librarian program to provide citizens one-on-one sessions with professional staff to learn a new skill; and received grants for technology projects and community-wide reading programs, such as The Big Read and a book discussion series on love and forgiveness.
- The **Crown Center** provided the public a wide array of entertainment including the Cumberland County Fair, musical concerts, Fire Antz hockey and Fayetteville Guard arena football games.

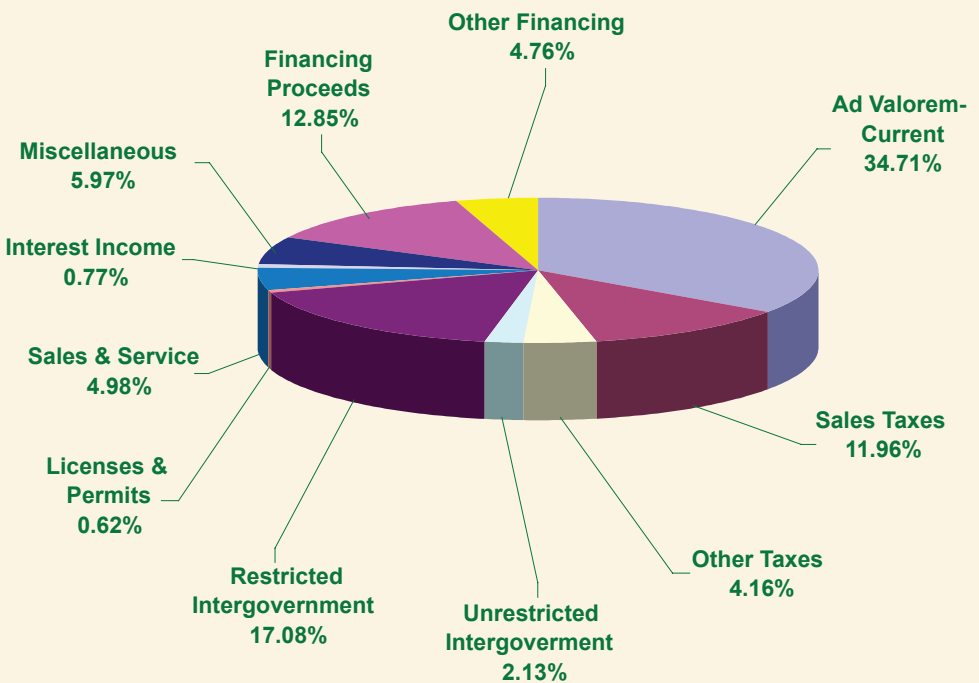
Human Services

- The **Department of Social Services** facilitated the implementation of phase one of the eScanx automated case management system in the Food and Nutrition Program (FNS). Social Services promoted self-sufficiency by successfully meeting the federal participation rate for Work First through community collaboration of pay-for-performance, which will be the basis for state enactment of a pay-for-performance policy for every county in North Carolina. The department's legal staff successfully argued, in partnership with the Guardian Ad Litem attorney, two North Carolina Supreme Court juvenile cases that set legal precedents across the state.
- The **Veterans Services Office** assisted 9,335 clients and had 4,428 new claims approved. The agency partnered with the VET Center to provide Veteran's Affairs briefings to post traumatic stress disorder groups and conducted its first town hall meeting for spouses of disabled veterans.
- The County, through its membership in the National Association of Counties, made drug discount cards available that offer an average savings of 20 percent off the retail price of commonly prescribed drugs.
- During these tough economic times, the **Workforce Development Center** continues to help residents of Cumberland County obtain short-term training, retraining, work experience and much more.

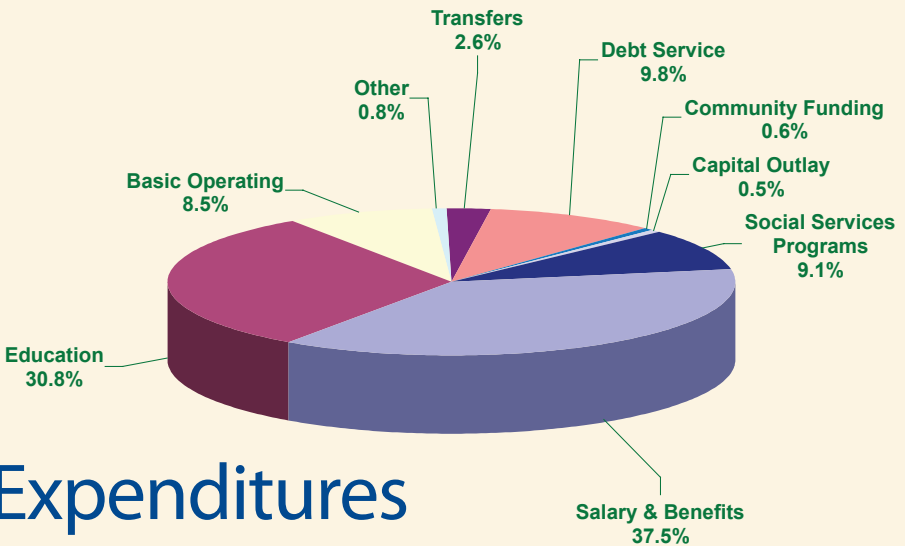
Economic

- Property revaluations were completed by **Tax Administration** and the Fiscal Year 2010 budget adopted with a revenue neutral tax rate of 76.6 cents per \$100 valuation.
- A one-quarter cent sales tax hike went into effect and will fund schools and libraries as well as the new Health Department building.

- The county's bond rating was elevated by Standard & Poor's by two notches from AA- to AA+. This is an indication of our fiscal responsibility and will save taxpayers money in the long run.
- The County worked cooperatively with the **BRAC Regional Task Force** in preparing our county and our region for the influx of new people associated with relocation of Forces Command and U.S. Army Reserve Command in 2011.
- Existing certificates of participation were refunded, yielding net present value savings over the remaining life of the bonds of \$2.7M (or 7.69% of the par value); and existing General Obligation School Bonds were refunded, yielding a net present value savings over the life of the bonds of \$2.47 million, or 7.03 percent. This amounts to an average savings of \$347,000 each year over the remaining eight years of the debt.



Revenue



Expenditures

Frequently Called Numbers

Commissioners (Governing Body, Meeting Minutes)	678-7771
County Manager (Commissioners' Meeting Agendas)	678-7723
Animal Services (Stray Animals)	321-6852
Board of Elections (Voter Registration)	678-7733
Civic Center Complex (Concerts, Special Events)	323-5088
Community Development (HUD, Housing/Public Svc)	323-6112
Cooperative Extension Service (Agriculture)	321-6860
Day Reporting (Offender Rehabilitation)	323-6126
EMERGENCY CALLS (Ambulance, Fire, Sheriff)	911
Emergency Management (Weather/Emerg Preparedness)	321-6736
Fire Marshal (Fire Code Inspections, Fire Prevention)	321-6736
Human Resources (Job Applications)	678-7653
Inspections (Building Permits)	321-6636
Library (Books, Electronic Media, Reference Material)	483-7727
Mental Health (Substance Abuse Counseling)	323-0601
Parks & Recreation (Sports, Leisure Activities)	433-1547
Planning (Zoning)	678-7617
Pre-Trial Release (Electronic Housing Arrest)	677-5535
Public Information (County Government Inquiries)	437-1921
Public Health (Immunizations, WIC, Medicare)	433-3600
Register of Deeds (Land Records)	678-7775
(Birth, Death, Marriage Certificates)	678-7767
Sheriff's Office (Non-Emergency Crime Reporting)	323-1500
Social Services (Public Assistance, Job Training, Child Welfare)	323-1540
Soil Conservation (Environmental Education)	484-8479
Solid Waste Disposal (Recycling, Yard Debris)	321-6830
Spring Lake Family Resource Center	321-6438
Tax Administrator (Property Tax Collections)	678-7507
Veteran's Services (Counseling, Resources)	678-2970
Workforce Development Ctr.(Jobs Training/Placement)	323-3421



Cumberland County's
television show
"Cumberland Matters"
airs Tuesdays at 10 p.m. on
Time Warner Cable 7.

You can also view the
program via the county's
web site.

www.co.cumberland.nc.us