



TEAM BLADEN

January 2017
Bladen County
Government Newsletter

DEPARTMENT HEADS:

Co. Manager: Greg Martin

Animal Control: Kory Hair

Building Inspections:

Matt Chadwick

Clerk of Courts:

Nikki Dennis

Computer Operations:

Robin Hewett

Consolidated

Human Services

Health: David Howard

DSS: Vickie Smith

Economic Development:

Chuck Heustess

Elections: Cynthia Shaw

Emergency Services:

Bradley Kinlaw

EMS: David Howell, Jr.

Extension: Sandra Cain

Finance: Lisa Coleman

Human Resources: Shonteia Keaton

Library: Kelsey Edwards

Operations: David "Kip" McClary

Planning: Greg Elkins

Recreation: Grant Pait

Register of Deeds:

Beverly Parks

Revenue: Renee Davis

Senior Services: Joan Allen

Soil & Water: Dean Morris

Sheriff: James McVicker

Water: Randy Garner

BEFORE SNOWSTORMS AND EXTREME COLD

To prepare for a winter storm you should do the following:

- Before winter approaches, add the following supplies to your [emergency kit](#):
- Rock salt or more environmentally safe products to melt ice on walkways. Visit the [Environmental Protection Agency](#) for a complete list of recommended products.
- Sand to improve traction.
- Snow shovels and other snow removal equipment.
- Sufficient heating fuel. You may become isolated in your home and regular fuel sources may be cut off. Store a good supply of dry, seasoned wood for your fireplace or wood-burning stove.
- Adequate clothing and blankets to keep you warm.
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- Make a [Family Communications Plan](#). Your family may not be together when disaster strikes, so it is important to know how you will contact one another, how you will get back together and what you will do in case of an emergency.
- A NOAA Weather Radio broadcasts alerts and warnings directly from the NWS for all hazards. You may also sign up in advance to receive notifications from your local emergency services.
- Download FEMA's Be Smart. Know Your Alerts and Warnings for a summary of notifications at: www.ready.gov/prepare. Free smart phone apps, such as those available from FEMA and the American Red Cross, provide information about finding shelters, providing first aid, and seeking assistance for recovery.
- Minimize travel. If travel is necessary, keep a disaster supplies kit in your vehicle.
- Bring pets/companion animals inside during winter weather. Move other animals or livestock to sheltered areas with non-frozen drinking water.

<https://www.ready.gov/winter-weather>

Winterize Your Vehicle

Check or have a mechanic check the following items on your car:

- **Antifreeze levels** - ensure they are sufficient to avoid freezing.
- **Battery and ignition system** - should be in top condition and battery terminals should be clean.
- **Brakes** - check for wear and fluid levels.
- **Exhaust system** - check for leaks and crimped pipes and repair or replace as necessary. Carbon monoxide is deadly and usually gives no warning.
- **Fuel and air filters** - replace and keep water out of the system by using additives and maintaining a full tank of gas. A full tank will keep the fuel line from freezing.
- **Heater and defroster** - ensure they work properly.
- **Lights and flashing hazard lights** - check for serviceability.
- **Oil** - check for level and weight. Heavier oils congeal more at low temperatures and do not lubricate as well.
- **Thermostat** - ensure it works properly.
- **Windshield wiper equipment** - repair any problems and maintain proper washer fluid level.

Install good winter tires - Make sure the tires have adequate tread. All-weather radials are usually adequate for most winter conditions. However, some jurisdictions require that to drive on their roads, vehicles must be equipped with chains or snow tires with studs.

Update the [emergency kits](#) in your vehicles with:

- A shovel
- Windshield scraper and small broom
- Flashlight & Battery powered radio
- Extra batteries
- Water
- Snack food
- Matches
- Extra hats, socks and mittens
- First aid kit with pocket knife
- Necessary medications
- Blanket(s)
- Tow chain or rope
- Road salt and sand
- Booster cables & Emergency flares
- Fluorescent distress flag

Winterize Your Home

- Winterize your home to extend the life of your fuel supply by insulating walls and attics, caulking and weather-stripping doors and windows, and installing storm windows or covering windows with plastic.
- Winterize your house, barn, shed or any other structure that may provide shelter for your family, neighbors, livestock or equipment. Clear rain gutters; repair roof leaks and cut away tree branches that could fall on a house or other structure during a storm.
- Maintain heating equipment and chimneys by having them cleaned and inspected every year.
- Insulate pipes with insulation or newspapers and plastic and allow faucets to drip a little during cold weather to avoid freezing. Running water, even at a trickle, helps prevent pipes from freezing.
- All fuel-burning equipment should be vented to the outside and kept clear.
- Keep fire extinguishers on hand, and make sure everyone in your house knows how to use them. House fires pose an additional risk, as more people turn to alternate heating sources without taking the necessary safety precautions.
- Learn how to [shut off water valves](#) (in case a pipe bursts).
- Insulate your home by installing storm windows or covering windows with plastic from the inside to keep cold air out.

Hire a contractor to check the structural ability of the roof to sustain unusually heavy weight from the accumulation of snow - or water, if drains on flat roofs do not work.

Know the Terms

Know the terms used to describe changing winter weather conditions and what actions to take. These terms can be used to determine the timeline and severity of an approaching storm. (Advisory / Watch / Warning). The NWS also issues advisories and warnings for other winter weather, including blizzards, freezes, wind chill, lake effect snow, and dense fog. Be alert to weather reports and tune in for specific guidance when these conditions develop.

Freezing Rain - Rain that freezes when it hits the ground, creating a coating of ice on roads, walkways, trees and power lines.

Sleet - Rain that turns to ice pellets before reaching the ground. Sleet also causes moisture on roads to freeze and become slippery.

Wind Chill - Windchill is the temperature it “feels like” when you are outside. The NWS provides a Windchill Chart to show the difference between air temperature and the perceived temperature and the amount of time until frostbite occurs. For more information, visit: <http://www.nws.noaa.gov/om/winter/windchill.shtml>.

Winter Weather Advisory - Winter weather conditions are expected to cause significant inconveniences and may be hazardous. When caution is used, these situations should not be life threatening. The NWS issues a winter weather advisory when conditions are expected to cause significant inconveniences that may be hazardous. If caution is used, these situations should not be life-threatening.

<https://www.ready.gov/winter-weather>

Winter Storm Watch - A winter storm is possible in your area. Tune in to NOAA Weather Radio, commercial radio, or television for more information. The NWS issues a winter storm watch when severe winter conditions, such as heavy snow and/or ice, may affect your area but the location and timing are still uncertain. A winter storm watch is issued 12 to 36 hours in advance of a potential severe storm. Tune in to NOAA Weather Radio, local radio, TV, or other news sources for more information. Monitor alerts, check your emergency supplies, and gather any items you may need if you lose power.

Winter Storm Warning - A winter storm is occurring or will soon occur in your area.

Blizzard Warning - Sustained winds or frequent gusts to 35 miles per hour or greater and considerable amounts of falling or blowing snow (reducing visibility to less than a quarter mile) are expected to prevail for a period of three hours or longer.

Frost/Freeze Warning - Below freezing temperatures are expected.

Carbon Monoxide

Caution: Each year, an average of 430 Americans die from unintentional carbon monoxide poisoning, and there are more than 20,000 visits to the emergency room with more than 4,000 hospitalizations. Carbon monoxide-related deaths are highest during colder months. These deaths are likely due to increased use of gas-powered furnaces and alternative heating, cooking, and power sources used inappropriately indoors during power outages.

- Never use a generator, grill, camp stove or other gasoline, propane, natural gas or charcoal-burning devices inside a home, garage, basement, crawlspace or any partially enclosed area. Locate unit away from doors, windows and vents that could allow carbon monoxide to come indoors. Keep these devices at least 20 feet from doors, windows, and vents.
- The primary hazards to avoid when using alternate sources for electricity, heating or cooking are carbon monoxide poisoning, electric shock and fire.
- Install carbon monoxide alarms in central locations on every level of your home and outside sleeping areas to provide early warning of accumulating carbon monoxide.
- If the carbon monoxide alarm sounds, move quickly to a fresh air location outdoors or by an open window or door.

Call for help from the fresh air location and remain there until emergency personnel arrive to assist you.

New Year Brings New Roles in State Education

North Carolina has once again garnered critical national attention, this time around with HB17.

The major backlash from the bill – passed by the N.C. General Assembly and approved by Gov. McCrory in December – has been regarding the changes it brings to education.

The N.C. Constitution states that the role of the State Board of Education is to “supervise and administer the free public school system, and the educational funds provided for its support ...” and the superintendent is “the secretary and chief administrative officer of the State Board of Education.”

HB17 shifts supervisory roles from the State Board to the superintendent. Republican State Superintendent Mark Johnson – who replaces outgoing Democrat Jane Atkinson – now has the power to hire and fire certain employees, including State Board employees, without the SBE’s approval. The local superintendent and two high school advisors who serve on the State Board will no longer be appointed by the newly elected Democratic governor, but by the state superintendent. In addition, rather than serving as the “secretary and chief administrative officer” of the SBE, the incoming superintendent will now be recognized as head of the Department of Public Instruction.

Other changes involve the authority of the superintendent to select the head of the Achievement School District, as well as direct supervision of the Office of Charter Schools.

“The Constitution of North Carolina clearly identifies the duties each party (the governor, SBE, and state superintendent) has, and if they desire to make a change, they need to go through proper channels,” weighed in Bladen County Schools Superintendent Robert Taylor. “The only thing we’re concerned about as superintendents is that all three parties continue to keep children’s interest at hand. Who does what is minor, and we would like them to focus on things associated with class size and things associated with the Elementary and Secondary Schools Act and keep proper funding for students at the forefront – not quibble about power, but focus on what’s best for children.”

Being under the speculative microscope of the nation is nothing new for the N.C. General Assembly, which earlier in 2016 passed the controversial H.B. 2. H.B 17’s proponents are crying foul again and pointing fingers at the media.

“... I have come to realize that the current changes to executive authority in House Bill 17 have been greatly exaggerated by misleading TV ads, paid protesters and state and national media outlets,” said former Gov. Pat McCrory in a press release. “This bill enhances state employee policies, transfers school safety programs to the education department, allows our state legislature to make university trustee appointments, and clarifies the roles and organizational structure of the superintendent of public instruction and board of education – hardly extreme changes.”

Even if Democrat Gov. Roy Cooper decides to fight the new law, the GOP-controlled Congress would likely waylay his efforts. The bill passed the General Assembly by a near party-line vote, 61-23 in the House and 24-13 in the Senate, with many members absent or not voting in both chambers. One Republican, Wake County Sen. John Alexander, voted against the bill in the Senate. One Democrat, Bladen County’s own State Rep. William Brisson, voted for the bill in the House.

Deadline to pay 2016 property taxes is January 5



The deadline to pay your 2016 property taxes is fast approaching. All property taxes for 2016 need to be paid by January 5 and interest on the amount owed will begin accruing on January 6.

Bladen County Tax Administrator Renee Davis said that if you cannot pay your 2016 property taxes in full, you can come into the tax office and set up a payment plan. She said the tax department has various means at its disposal to collect unpaid debts including wage garnishments, debt set off, seizing income tax refunds, etc.

Davis said she anticipates second notices to be mailed out soon to Bladen County residents who still have not paid their 2016 property taxes.

Also, January is the time to list your property taxes for 2017. Listing forms will be mailed in January. Davis said that all persons who own or control personal property, business property, or made improvements to real property, must list all such property by January 31.

Personal property includes such items as mobile homes, campers, unregistered vehicles, boats etc. Business property is defined as such items as business equipment, supplies, machinery, computer equipment, etc.

Davis added that now is a good time to come to the tax office and file for any exemptions you may claim such as land use exemptions. Also, folks who wish to file for the elderly homestead exemption can begin doing so in January.

Davis that anyone who has questions regarding their property taxes or tax exemptions can contact the Bladen County Tax Office at [910-862-6730](tel:910-862-6730)

<http://www.bladenonline.com/deadline-to-pay-2016-property-taxes-is-january-5/>

No-Cost Business Seminars Offered at BCC

DUBLIN – The Small Business Center of Bladen Community College is offering no-cost seminars to help you start the New Year with the following:

– IRS 1099 Compliance will meet on Friday, Jan. 6, from 2 until 3 p.m. on the Dublin campus in building 2, room 202. This workshop will guide business owners through the complexities of hiring independent contractors.

– How to Deal with Difficult Employees for Small Business is scheduled for Monday, Jan. 9, from 2 until 3 p.m. on the Dublin campus in building 2, room 202. On Friday, Jan. 20, at the same time and location, Collecting Accounts Receivables for Small Business will review credit policies, invoicing, and collection processes.

– To assist entrepreneurs who wish to focus on how to start a business locally, the college is offering two classes. Starting a Business in Bladen County is scheduled for Tuesday, Jan. 10, at 2:30 p.m., at the Bladen County Public Library in Elizabethtown. Also beginning Jan. 10, from 6 until 8 p.m., the East Arcadia Campus is hosting an 8-months long informative seminar, How to Start a Business.

– The Bladen County Public Library is hosting two Spanish language seminars, designed for English-as-a-second-language speakers. How to Start a Business or Cómo Iniciar Un Negocio is scheduled for Tuesday, Jan. 24, from 6 to 8 p.m. On Tuesday, Feb. 28, or How to Write a Business Plan or Cómo Elaborar Un Plan de Negocios is scheduled.

– Grant Writing Basics is designed for non-profits and churches wishing to find funding sources. A workshop is planned for Saturday, Jan. 28, from 9 a.m. until noon. on the Dublin campus in building 2, room 202. Bladen County local and professional grant writer, Sam Gore, leads this workshop.

– How to Get Your Business on Twitter is a hands-on seminar in the BCC computer lab, and will meet on Monday, Jan. 30, from 6 until 8 p.m. During this workshop, businesses will be able to get their Twitter account set up and ask questions about Twitter can increase their business potential.

All seminars are open to the public and provided at no charge due to special funding arrangements for the Small Business Center and Bladen Community College.

To register for any of the seminars or for more information, contact Todd Lyden, Small Business Center Director, at 910-879.5572 or register online at <https://www.ncsbc.net/center.aspx?center=75040>.

<http://bladenjournal.com/news/business/10120/no-cost-business-seminars-offered-at-bcc>

County Commissioners to meet for Planning Session on January 9 at Powell-Melvin Center

The Bladen County Board of Commissioners will hold a Board Planning Session and will also enter Closed Session in accordance with NCGS 143.318.11 (a) (3) Attorney-Client Privilege 5 pm on Monday, January 9, 2017.

The meeting will be held in the Powell-Melvin Agriculture Center, 450 Smith Circle, Elizabethtown.

County Commissioners to meet and discuss property tax matters Tuesday, January 3

The Bladen County Board of Commissioners will hold a Special Meeting regarding property tax matters at 5:30 p.m. on Tuesday, January 3, 2017.

The meeting will be held in the Commissioners Room located on the lower level of the Courthouse, 106 East Broad Street, Elizabethtown.

MLK WEEKEND UNITY IN THE COMMUNITY

MLK Weekend a Unity in the Community Weekend Fest is planned for January 13 through January 16.

There will be a kick-off event on Friday, January 13, beginning at noon at Big Show Auto Finishes. On Saturday, January 14, at noon there will be a block party and on Sunday, January 15, beginning at 6 p.m. there will be a Seafood and Oysters Bonfire Bash.

The weekend will culminate with the annual MLK Parade in Elizabethtown at 11 a.m. The parade will line up at 805 West Broad Street at 9 a.m. Following the parade there will be a fellowship feast.

Saddle clubs and camping are available all weekend. There will be a DJ, fellowship and fun all weekend.

For more information on becoming a vendor or sponsor for the MLK Unity in the Community Weekend, contact Big Show at 910-391-6009.



IVILLIA DAY 2017

UNITY IN THE COMMUNITY
January 13-16th Weekend Fest

Friday Kick-off Meet and Greet
12:00 noon - until

Saturday - 12:00 noon
Block Party Social

Sunday - 6:00pm Seafood & Oysters
Bonfire Bash

"MAIN EVENT MONDAY"

January 16th, Parade 11:00am

Followed by the yearly
Fellowship Feast

DJ, Food,
Fellowship
and Fun

Camping
Saddle Clubs
Weekend



Sponsors & vendors welcome.

Hotel accommodations in Elizabethtown - White Lake
Fayetteville and Lumberton, NC

For more information contact: Big Show (Pres. of Dedicated Soulz MC)

910-391-6009

Special Workshop for Caregivers and Professionals

By 2030, it is projected that North Carolina will have around 400,000 people diagnosed with Alzheimer's disease or other dementias. The North Carolina General Assembly mandated that the state develop an actionable strategic plan to address dementia and help relieve the burden on families caring for someone with dementia by 2017. We invite you to come and hear the plan and to learn about newly allocated funding that will be available to help families through Project C.A.R.E.

Dementia Capable North Carolina: A Strategic Plan for Addressing Alzheimer's Disease and Related Dementias

Date: January 10, 2017

Time: 9:00-11:00 a.m.

**Address: Trinity United Methodist Church
901 West Broad Street, Elizabethtown, NC 28337**

Presenter: Mark Hensley, MS

North Carolina Division of Aging and Adult Services
Dementia Services Coordinator

**There is no charge to attend but a reservation is required for seating.
Call (910) 862-3706 to reserve your seat.**



2017 Seminars for

Small Business Owners and Entrepreneurs

Attend these informative seminars at **NO COST** to you!



Location: Main Campus, Dublin

Dates	Seminars	Building/Rm	Times	Fees
1/6	IRS 1099 Compliance	2-202	2-3pm	0.00
1/9	Deal with Difficult Employees for Small Business	2-202	2-3pm	0.00
1/20	Collecting Accounts Receivables for Small Business	2-202	2-3pm	0.00
2/23	Marketing Your Business with Pinterest	2-207	6:30-9pm	0.00
3/30	Art of Marketing and Advertising a small business in NC	2-207	6:30-9pm	0.00
4/27	Train and motivate sales and customer service teams	2-207	6:30-9pm	0.00
5/18	Fundamentals of Fundraising	2-207	6:30-9pm	0.00
Saturday Day - Seminars				
1/28	Grant Writing Basics	2-207	9am-12pm	0.00
2/18	How and Where to Find Grants	2-207	9am-12pm	0.00
3/25	How to Brand/Build Your Non-Profit	2-207	9am-12pm	0.00
4/22	Staff Development for the Non-Profit or Church	2-207	9am-12pm	0.00
5/20	Be Debt Free and Start a Business	2-207	9am-12pm	0.00
Hands On Lab (limited space)				
1/30	Getting Your Business on Twitter	2-207	6-8pm	0.00
2/27	Quickbooks for Small Business Part 1	2-207	6-8pm	0.00
3/27	Quickbooks for Small Business Part 2	2-207	6-8pm	0.00
4/24	Online Apps and Tools for Business	2-207	6-8pm	0.00
5/22	Social Media Strategy	2-207	6-8pm	0.00

Location: East Arcadia Center, Riegelwood

Dates	Tuesday Evening - Seminars	Times	Fees
1/10	How to Start a Small Business	6-8pm	0.00
2/14	Finding Funding for Your Idea	6-8pm	0.00
3/14	Improve Your Credit Score for a Business Loan	6-8pm	0.00
4/11	So You Think You Want to Start a Business	6-8pm	0.00
5/9	Are There Customers for My Business?	6-8pm	0.00

Location: Bladen County Public Library, Elizabethtown

Dates	Tuesday Evening - Seminars	Times	Fees
1/24	How to Start a Business (in Spanish) Cómo Iniciar Un Negocio	6-8pm	0.00
2/28	Write a Business Plan (in Spanish) Cómo Elaborar un Plan de Negocios	6-8pm	0.00
3/28	How to Start a Group Home	6-8pm	0.00
4/25	Why Partnerships Matter to Small Businesses and Non-Profits	6-8pm	0.00
5/23	Fostering Your Network Even When the Economy is Down	6-8pm	0.00
Tuesday Day - Seminars			
1/10	Starting a Business in Bladen County	2:30-4:30pm	0.00
2/14	Basics of Book Keeping	2:30-4:30pm	0.00
3/14	What You Need to Start a Business at Home	2:30-4:30pm	0.00
4/11	Getting Your Business on Facebook	2:30-4:30pm	0.00
5/9	Get Linked in with LinkedIn	2:30-4:30pm	0.00

Location: Cape Fear Farmers Market, Elizabethtown

Dates	First Wednesday of the Month B2B Roundtable	Times	Fees
2/1	Topic/speakers: TBA	7:30-8:30am	0.00
3/1	Topic/speakers: TBA	7:30-8:30am	0.00
4/5	Topic/speakers: TBA	7:30-8:30am	0.00
5/3	Topics/speakers: TBA	7:30-8:30am	0.00

For additional information or to pre-register contact: Todd Lyden, Director for Small Business Center
910.879.5572 tlyden@bladence.edu

JANUARY

January 1st: @ 10:00am First Day Discovery Hike – Start the year off in the outdoors! Join a park ranger for a short hike through the bay forest at Jones Lake State Park and “discover” why this environment is unique. Discussion on the hike will include the flora and fauna of the forest, and why Carolina Bays are important. Participants should meet at the Visitor Center at 10:00 am for this program. Please bring bug spray, water, and hiking shoes. This event is free of charge and is open to the general public. Contact the park office at (910) 588-4550 with any questions.

January 7th: @ 10:00am Snakes –Ever wonder what snakes’ species are at home in eastern North Carolina? Which ones are venomous? Join a park ranger at the Visitor Center in exploring the various snakes in this area and the other unique species found throughout our great state. Participants should meet at the Jones Lake State Park Visitor Center at 10:00 am. Call the park office @ (910) 588-4550 for more information. This event is free of charge and open to the general public.

January 14th: @ 10:00am Introduction to Carolina Bays – Join a park ranger and learn about the geological mysteries of the Carolina Bays. Formation theories and the natural communities associated with Carolina Bays will be discussed. Participants should meet at the Jones Lake State Park Visitor Center at 10:00am. Call the Park office at 910-588-4550 for more information. This event is free of charge and open to the general public.

January 21st: @ 10:00 am Discovery Hike – Join a park ranger for a hike through the bay forest at Jones Lake State Park and “discover” why this environment is unique. Discussion on the hike will include the flora and fauna of the forest, and why Carolina Bays are important. Participants should meet at the Visitor Center at 10:00 am for this program. Please bring bug spray, water, and hiking shoes. This event is free of charge and is open to the general public. Contact the park office at (910) 588-4550 with any questions.

January 28th: @ 3:00pm All About Bears – Join a park ranger for a discussion on Jones Lake’s largest mammal.....the black bear. Learn about the biology and habits of the king of the forest. Participants should meet at the Jones Lake State Park Visitor Center at 3:00 pm. This program is free to the public. If you have any questions, please call the park office @ (910) 588-4550.

January

	Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
1		2 <u>New Year's Day Holiday - Offices Closed</u>	3 <u>8am - Prayer Service</u>	4	5	6	7
			<u>6:30pm Board of County Commissioners Meeting</u>				
8		9	10	11	12 <u>NCACC Legislative Goals Conference, Raleigh, NC</u>	13 <u>NCACC Legislative Goals Conference, Raleigh, NC</u>	14
					<u>7:00 pm - Bladen County Fire Association, Carvers Creek Fire Department</u>		
15		16 <u>M.L. King Jr. Birthday Holiday - Offices Closed</u>	17 <u>6:30pm Board of County Commissioners Meeting</u>	18	19	20	21
		<u>11am - Martin Luther King, Jr. Parade, Downtown Elizabethtown</u>					
22		23	24	25	26	27	28
29		30	31 <u>6pm - Southeastern Partnership Annual Meeting, Cape Fear Winery & Vineyard, Elizabethtown</u>				