

TEAM BLADEN

December 2016
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

7 TIPS TO KEEP YOUR HOLIDAY FRESH AND GREEN

By: Cape Fear Heating & Cooling, LLC

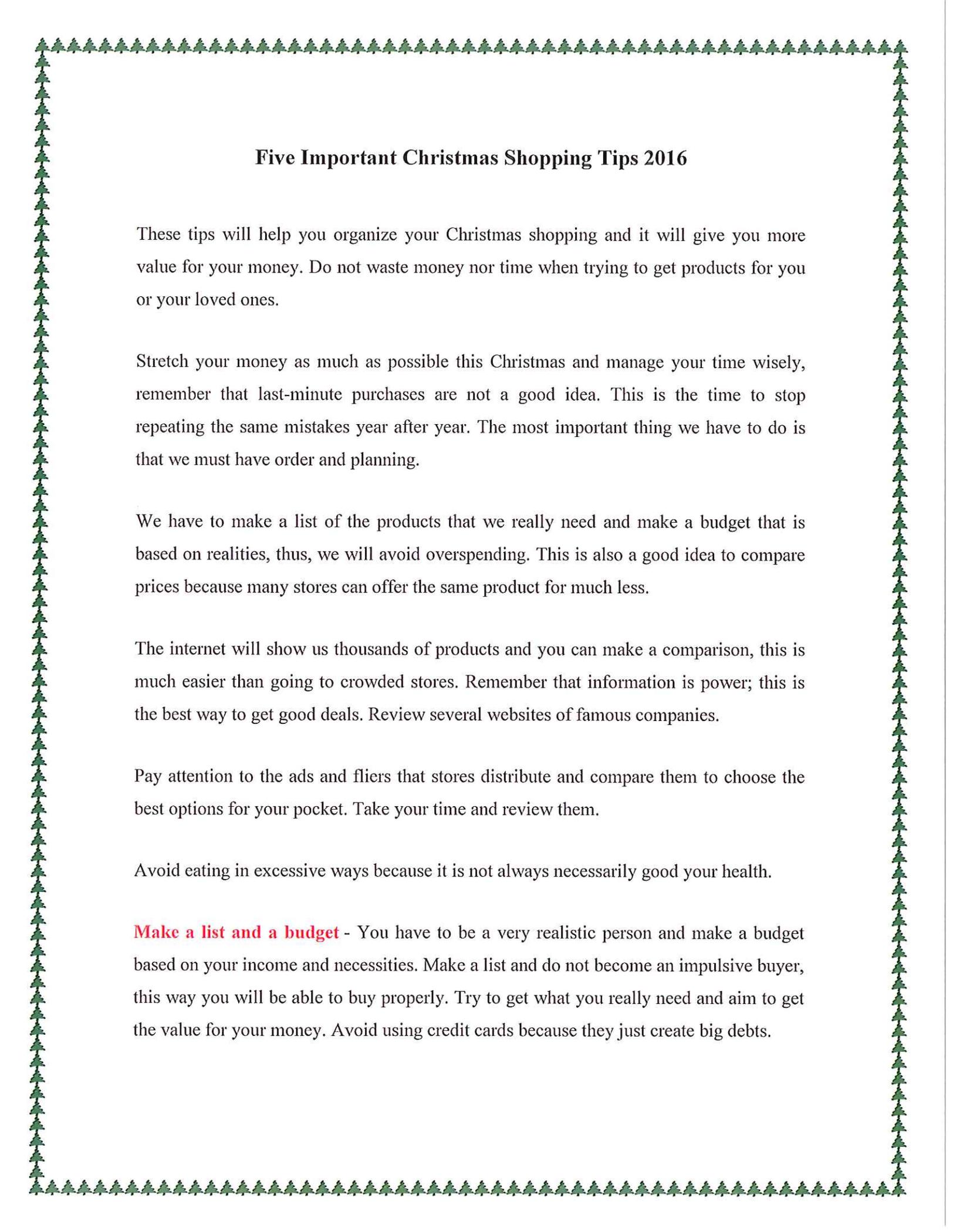
Clarkton, NC – Christmas will soon be here. Some Bladen County residence already have their homes decorated with green fresh cut trees.

Cape Fear Heating & Cooling in Clarkton has seven tips to keep you safe and the heat from drying out your fresh green Christmas tree.

1. Keep the tree base immersed in water.
2. Remove any dead or damaged branches or needles.
3. Use only lights that are U.L. approved.
4. Use flame retardant decorations and paper.
5. Inspect lights for frayed or cracked wiring, broken plugs, and defective sockets.
6. Unplug lights at night and when leaving the home.
7. Remove the tree soon after the holidays-before the needles dry out.

Our goal at Cape Fear Heating & Cooling is "Keeping you Comfortable". For more tips check us out on Facebook, Twitter or at www.capefearheatingandcooling.com.

<http://www.bladenonline.com/7-tips-to-keep-your-holiday-fresh-and-green/>



Five Important Christmas Shopping Tips 2016

These tips will help you organize your Christmas shopping and it will give you more value for your money. Do not waste money nor time when trying to get products for you or your loved ones.

Stretch your money as much as possible this Christmas and manage your time wisely, remember that last-minute purchases are not a good idea. This is the time to stop repeating the same mistakes year after year. The most important thing we have to do is that we must have order and planning.

We have to make a list of the products that we really need and make a budget that is based on realities, thus, we will avoid overspending. This is also a good idea to compare prices because many stores can offer the same product for much less.

The internet will show us thousands of products and you can make a comparison, this is much easier than going to crowded stores. Remember that information is power; this is the best way to get good deals. Review several websites of famous companies.

Pay attention to the ads and fliers that stores distribute and compare them to choose the best options for your pocket. Take your time and review them.

Avoid eating in excessive ways because it is not always necessarily good your health.

Make a list and a budget - You have to be a very realistic person and make a budget based on your income and necessities. Make a list and do not become an impulsive buyer, this way you will be able to buy properly. Try to get what you really need and aim to get the value for your money. Avoid using credit cards because they just create big debts.

Plan with the Internet – Online internet shopping is great because this way you can be in many places at once. Remember that all big stores have their websites with the products they offer. Go to different websites and compare prices, this way you will be able to save time and money. This is also a way to avoid the shopping craziness. Famous brands such as Target, Sears, Amazon and others provide a lot of information about their items on sale.

Don't overbuy food - Do not buy food in exaggerated ways; remember that healthy nutrition is not about eating in excessive ways, it is about the right food in right amounts. Do not let marketers play with your desires and manipulate your wallet.

Look for deals – Over the last years, Christmas deals start several weeks before Christmas. Many companies compete for customers and slash prices as much as possible. Pay attention to fliers and ads of the companies and compare them with the prices offered by their competitors. You will be able to get discounts that surpass even 50% at times.

Beware of gift cards - There is growing evidence that a very big percentage of gift cards are not used by the customers. Pay attention to the gift cards you receive because there are discounts that will give you more purchasing power. Another important detail is the date of expiration of these cards.

Follow these simple tips in order to get the best deal each time you shop. Remember, happiness is not always about what we give, but what we give! Happy Holidays!

<http://www.hngn.com/articles/219842/20161202/christmas-shopping-tips-stretch-your-money-savings-discounts-make-a-list-and-a-budget-plan-with-the-internet-avoid-credit-cards-get-value-for-your-money.htm>

Applications for the Low Income Energy Assistance Program to be taken

ELIZABETHTOWN — The Bladen County Department of Social Services will be taking applications for the Low Income Energy Assistance Program beginning Thursday, Dec. 1, through March 31, 2017.

Only households containing an elderly person age 60 and above or a disabled person receiving services through the Division of Aging and Adult Services are eligible to apply for benefits from Dec. 1-31 or until funds are exhausted. All other households can apply for LIEAP benefits from Jan. 1 through March 31, 2017, or until funds are exhausted, if all eligibility requirements are met.

The Low Income Energy Assistance Program provides a one-time annual vendor payment to help eligible families pay their heating expense. All household's determined eligible for LIEAP must provide the agency with the name of the vendor they would like payment remitted to.

For additional information contact Bladen County Department of Social Services at 910-862-6888.

<http://bladenjournal.com/news/9600/applications-for-the-low-income-energy-assistance-program-to-be-taken>

Duke Energy Progress rates drop for North Carolina customers

CHARLOTTE – Duke Energy Progress customers in North Carolina don't have to look far for a deal this holiday season. On average, customers can power their homes and lives for less than \$3.50 a day.

Effective Thursday, the charge for a typical residential customer using 1,000 kilowatt-hours (kWh) of electricity decreased from \$110.04 to \$103.23 per month, a savings of \$6.81.

Overall energy costs decreased about 6.5 percent for residential customers, 7.2 percent for commercial customers and 7 percent for industrial customers.

“We work around the clock to bring our customers reliable electricity at affordable rates,” said David Fountain, Duke Energy president – North Carolina. “Through our generation operations and fuel procurement practices, we have delivered more than \$722 million in fuel and joint dispatch merger savings to our customers since 2012.”

Duke Energy maintains lower fuel and fuel-related rates through expertise in operating a diverse generation portfolio of nuclear, coal, natural gas and hydro; efficiency improvements that led to higher capacity factors in the nuclear fleet; and fuel procurement strategies that mitigate volatility in supply costs.

Other key reasons for the overall decrease include:

- A decrease in the prior period true-up of fuel costs, as compared to the prior period true-up included in the current bill
- Total fuel costs are declining due to a drop in commodity prices

Duke Energy Progress makes a fuel cost recovery filing annually in North Carolina. The fuel rate is based on the projected cost of fuel used to provide electric service to the company's customers, plus a true-up of the prior year's projection.

The NCUC reviews fuel costs and adjusts the fuel component of customer rates accordingly. By law, the company makes no profit from the fuel component of rates.

The lower rates reflect annual adjustments to charges for fuel, compliance with the state's renewable energy portfolio standard and the Joint Agency Asset Rider as approved by the North Carolina Utilities Commission.

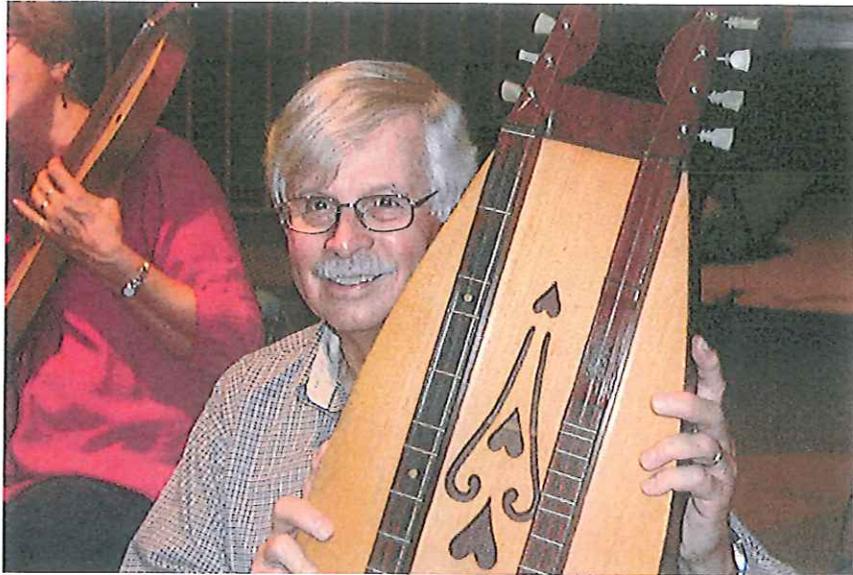
Additionally, Duke Energy Progress rates will adjust on Jan. 1, 2017, due to charges related to implementing programs to help reduce energy consumption and save customers money on their energy bills.

Residential customers using 1,000 kWh of electricity per month will see an increase of \$1.47 per month on their bills beginning in January, which also accounts for a pending lower state income tax.

Energy efficiency and demand side management charges are increasing primarily due to new program offerings, increased customer participation and related costs, and a reduction in the recovery period for non-residential program costs from 10 to three years.

The net effect of all adjustments is a monthly saving of \$5.34 for the typical residential customer. In the New Year, overall customer rates will decrease about 5.1 percent for residential customers, 6.7 percent for commercial customers and 6.8 percent for industrial customers

<http://bladenjournal.com/news/business/9682/duke-energy-progress-rates-drop-for-north-carolina-customers>



John Goodman's "An Early American Christmas"

"Early American Christmas" is a celebration of the Christmas season which draws upon the Scriptures and upon song and story from an earlier era in our nation's history. A great many of the favorite songs and carols which we sing in observance of this season had their origins in England, Germany, France and other European lands. The "New World" also yielded a smaller but rich heritage of music for Advent and Christmas. This program draws upon and shares music from various traditions of this country: gospel, shaped notes, Appalachian, African American. It further shares recollections from earlier Christmases as recorded in *A Foxfire Christmas: Appalachian Memories and Traditions* and other resources. Presbyterian minister John Goodman came to have a deep love of the traditional music of America during his 23 years as a West Virginian before he made Elizabethtown, North Carolina his home beginning in 2000. He also adopted the lap dulcimer and later other folk instruments. "Early American Christmas" is John's more recent version of a similar service he originally developed in his West Virginia years.

Tuesday, December 6, 2016 at 6pm

Main Library in Elizabethtown

For more information call 862-6990 or visit our web site
<http://bladenco.libguides.com/home>



THE BLADEN COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE

Cordially invites you to our

ANNUAL CHRISTMAS PARTY

Friday, December 9, 2016

From

12:00 PM until 2:00 PM



**Location for this event will be in the
Sheriff's Office Conference Room**

Kids Christmas Party



Bladen County Public Library

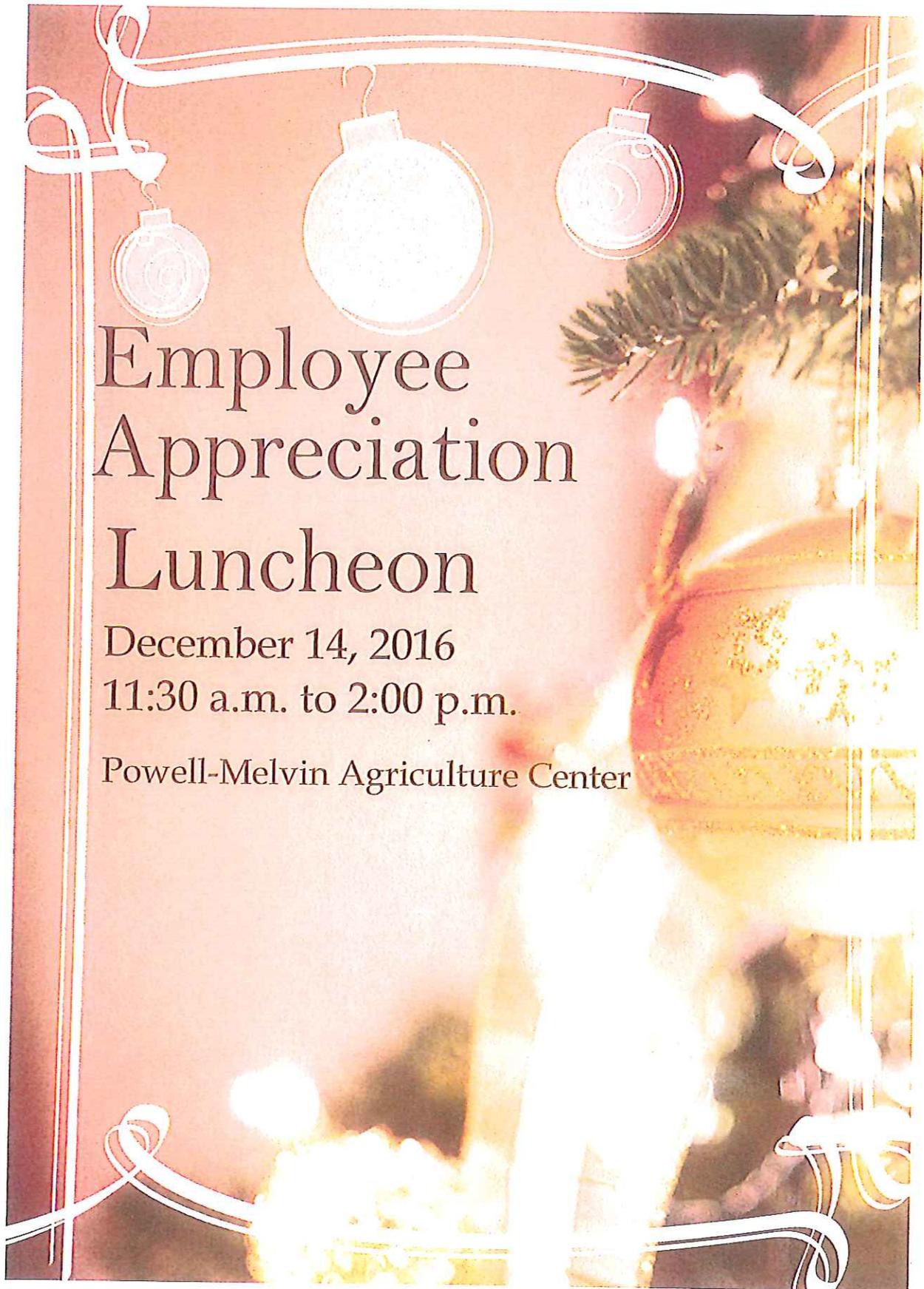
Main Branch

Thursday, December 15, 2016

6:00 pm

Please call 910-862-6990 to register your child by
December 13, 2016.

Minors must be accompanied by a responsible adult
during this program.



Employee Appreciation Luncheon

December 14, 2016

11:30 a.m. to 2:00 p.m.

Powell-Melvin Agriculture Center



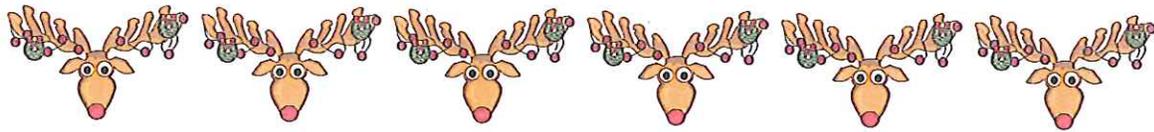
The Register of Deeds Office would like to invite you to
their annual Chili Lunch

Located in the Court House Room #118

December 16, 2016

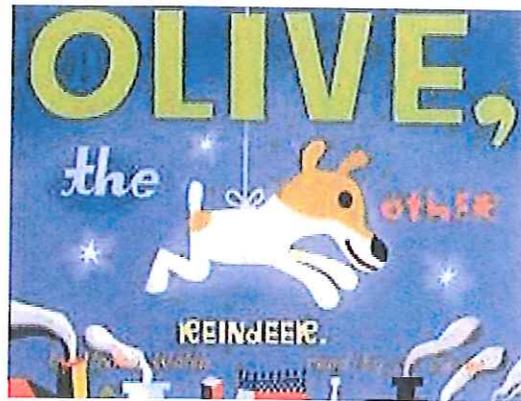
11:00 AM - 2:00 PM





Come See Us for a

Special Christmas Story time!

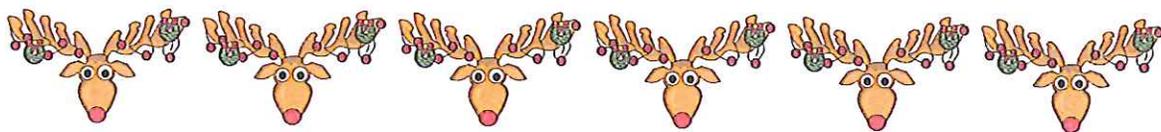


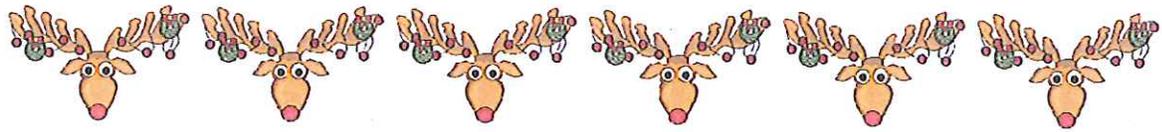
Bridger Memorial Library

Monday December 19th, 2016

5:30 pm – 7:00 pm

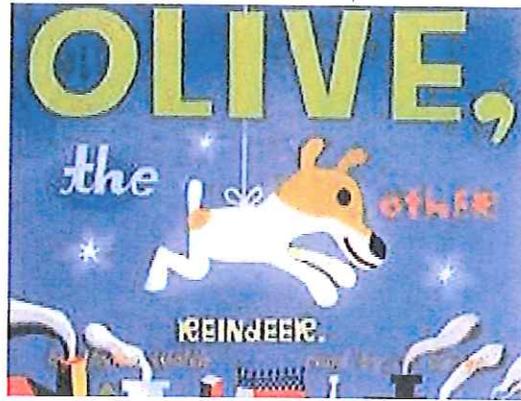
With a Surprise Visit from a Special Guest!





Come See Us for a

Special Christmas Story time!

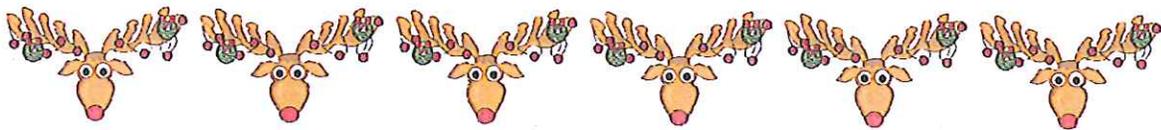


Clarkton Public Library

Tuesday, December 20th, 2016

5:30 pm – 7:00 pm

With a Surprise Visit from a Special Guest!





LU MIL VINEYARD Christmas Light Show

In partnership with  Four County Electric
Membership Corporation
A Southern Power Corporation



Sat & Sun - November 26 & 27
Thurs-Sun - December 1 - 4 & 8 - 11
Nightly - December 15 - 23

*DRIVE THRU FESTIVAL OF LIGHTS

6pm-10pm \$6 per person

Drive your own vehicle thru the hundreds of thousands of lights & decorations that are synchronized to music that you listen to on your car's FM radio.

Our magical experience will help create unforgettable family memories for all ages!

\$6 per person (tax included) with a max. of \$60 per vehicle (vans & buses).

Rent our double-decker bus for \$6/person with a min. of 20 people.

Bus reservations required 48 hrs in advance (910-862-1603)

*COUNTRY BUFFET

5pm-9pm \$11 plus tax

*VISIT SANTA & THE CANDY SHOP

*GIFT BASKETS & UNIQUE ITEMS



Free Wine Tastings &
Gift Shop Open Daily

"Vineyard Cabins"



Drop Off Location
Bring new unwrapped toys as
Christmas gifts for less fortunate
children in the community.
Everyone Deserves Christmas!



Call 910-862-1603 for reservations

910-866-5819

www.lumilvineyard.com

GPS Address: 438 Suggs-Taylor Road, Elizabethtown, NC 28337

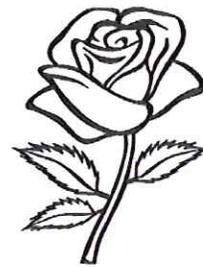


Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
				1	2	3
4	5 <u>6:30pm - Board of Commissioners Meeting</u>	6	7	8	9 <u>12pm-2pm Bladen County Sheriff's Office Christmas Party, Sheriff's Conference Room</u>	10
11	12	13 <u>8am - BCC Trustees Appreciation Breakfast, BCC Auditorium</u>	14 <u>11:30am-2pm - Annual Employee Appreciation Luncheon, Powell-Melvin Agriculture Center</u>	15	16 <u>11am-2pm Register of Deeds Annual Chili Lunch</u>	17
18	19 <u>6:30pm - Board of Commissioners Meeting</u>	20	21	22	23 <u>Christmas - Offices Closed</u>	24
25	26 <u>Christmas - Offices Closed</u>	27 <u>Christmas - Offices Closed</u>	28	29	30	31

In Memory



Mrs. Jannie M. Mason





HOLIDAY CLOSINGS

DECEMBER 23RD, 24TH, 25TH, 26TH & 27TH