



# TEAM BLADEN

## 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:

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:

Library: Kelsey Edwards

Operations: Robert Mazur

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

## "Snacks with Mrs. Santa"



Bladen County Public Library – Main Branch

Saturday, December 12, 2015

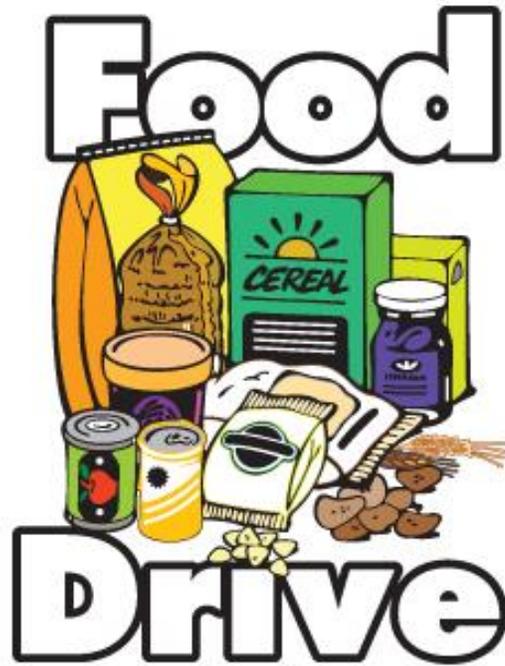
10:00 A.M.

Guardian must call 910.862.6990 to register children in advance.

Wear your favorite **holiday pajamas!**

\*This program is appropriate for children ages 2-12\*

# BLADEN COUNTY PUBLIC LIBRARY'S NON-PERISHABLE HOLIDAY FOOD DRIVE



THE PUBLIC IS INVITED TO BRING NON-PERISHABLE FOOD ITEMS TO ANY BRANCH OF THE BLADEN COUNTY PUBLIC LIBRARY FROM MONDAY, NOVEMBER 30<sup>TH</sup> - SATURDAY, DECEMBER 12<sup>TH</sup> TO HELP THOSE IN NEED DURING THE HOLIDAY SEASON.

THE LIBRARY WILL DONATE THE FOOD ITEMS TO A LOCAL AGENCY WHO WILL DISTRIBUTE THE ITEMS TO SENIOR CITIZENS WITH A NEED.



# LU MIL VINEYARD Christmas Light Show

Sat & Sun - November 28 & 29  
Thurs-Sun - December 3 - 6 & 10 - 13  
Nightly - December 17 - 23



## \***DRIVE THRU FESTIVAL OF LIGHTS** 6pm-10pm      \$6 per person

**NEW LONGER ROUTE & MANY NEW DECORATIONS**...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 IN THE CANDY SHOP**  
\***GIFT BASKETS & UNIQUE ITEMS**

**Free Wine Tastings & Gift Shop Open Daily**

*"Vineyard Cabins"*



- \*Red Heart Shaped Whirlpool Tub
- \*Nightly Rentals
- \*Gift Certificates Available
- \*Call 910-862-1603 for reservations

**910-866-5819**

**[www.lumilvineyard.com](http://www.lumilvineyard.com)**

## 4-H Christmas Toy Drive



November 1, 2015 through December 4, 2015

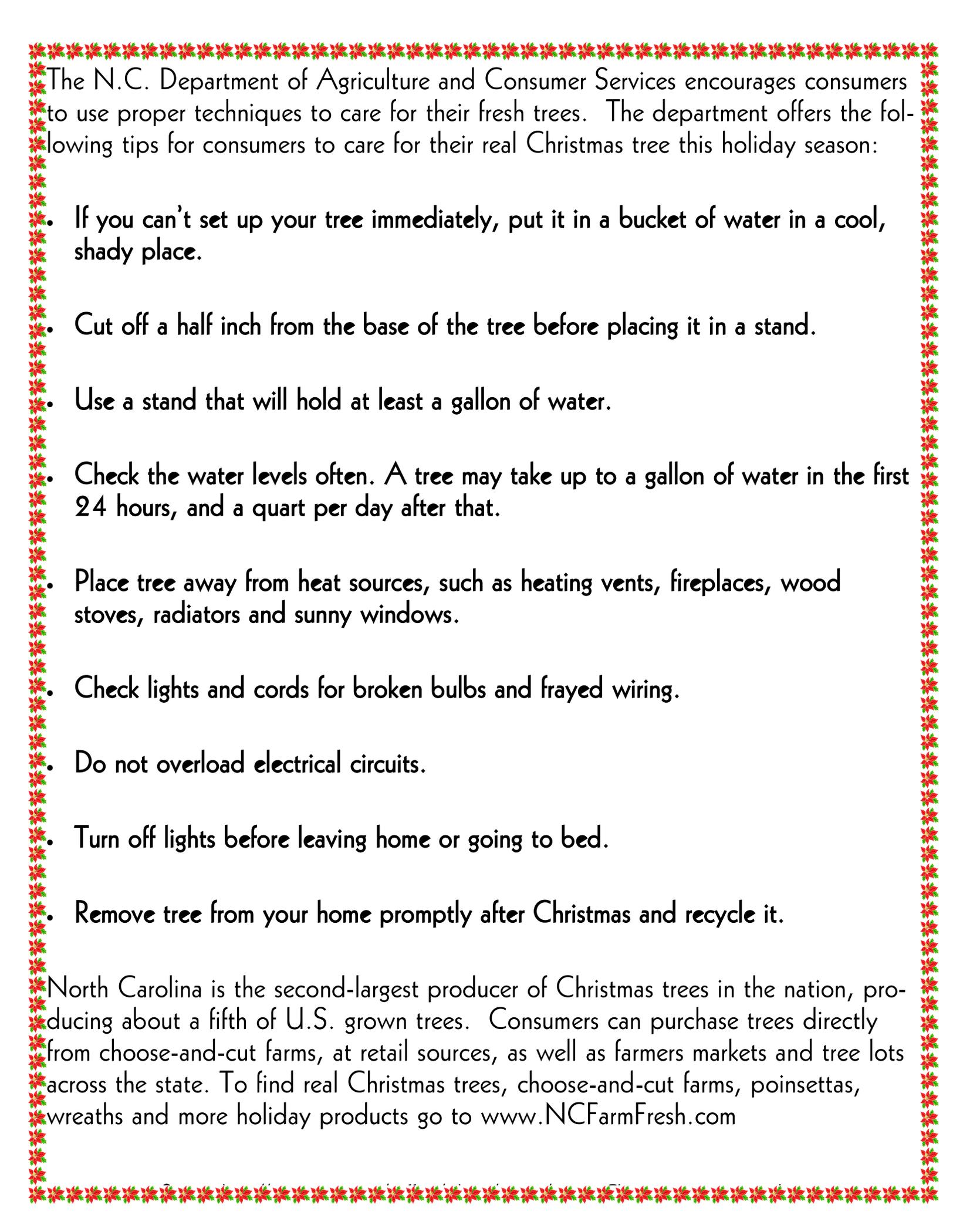
Donate \*NEW\* unwrapped toys and bring a smile to a child in Bladen County this holiday season.

Gift Ideas: Dolls, Dress Up Sets, Legos, Scooters, Games, Jewelry Sets, Craft Sets, Music Players, Soccer Balls, Footballs, Remote Control Cars, and Action Figures.

Donations can be dropped off at the Bladen County 4-H office in the Powell-Melvin Agriculture Building at 450 Smith Circle, Elizabethtown, NC 28337.

Contact: Stacie Kinlaw

(910) 862-4591 or [Stacie\\_kinlaw@ncsu.edu](mailto:Stacie_kinlaw@ncsu.edu)



The N.C. Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services encourages consumers to use proper techniques to care for their fresh trees. The department offers the following tips for consumers to care for their real Christmas tree this holiday season:

- If you can't set up your tree immediately, put it in a bucket of water in a cool, shady place.
- Cut off a half inch from the base of the tree before placing it in a stand.
- Use a stand that will hold at least a gallon of water.
- Check the water levels often. A tree may take up to a gallon of water in the first 24 hours, and a quart per day after that.
- Place tree away from heat sources, such as heating vents, fireplaces, wood stoves, radiators and sunny windows.
- Check lights and cords for broken bulbs and frayed wiring.
- Do not overload electrical circuits.
- Turn off lights before leaving home or going to bed.
- Remove tree from your home promptly after Christmas and recycle it.

North Carolina is the second-largest producer of Christmas trees in the nation, producing about a fifth of U.S. grown trees. Consumers can purchase trees directly from choose-and-cut farms, at retail sources, as well as farmers markets and tree lots across the state. To find real Christmas trees, choose-and-cut farms, poinsettias, wreaths and more holiday products go to [www.NCFarmFresh.com](http://www.NCFarmFresh.com)

# Bladen County Board of Elections Public Notice

Bladen Online

The Bladen County Board of Elections candidate filing for the following offices will open on Tuesday, December 1, 2015, at noon and will close on Monday, December 21, 2015, at noon.

<u>Contests</u>	<u>Filing Fees</u>
Board of Education Districts 1, 2 and 3	\$57.00
County Commissioner Districts 1, 2 and 3	\$84.00
County-Wide Commissioner	\$84.00
State House of Representatives Districts 22 and 46	Filing fee to be determined
State Senate District 8	Filing fee to be determined

All filing fees must be paid with a personal check or money order payable to the Bladen County Board of Elections. All candidates will be required to open a Campaign Finance Committee.

Bobby Ludlum, Chairman  
Bladen County Board of Elections  
301 S. Cypress St.  
Elizabethtown, NC 28337  
910-862-6951  
Office Hours: 8:30 a.m. to 5 p.m.

# Free Holiday Grief Workshop in December

Bladen County Times

Lower Cape Fear Hospice will offer a free grief workshop, Hope for the Holidays, from 10 a.m.-noon Monday, Dec. 7 at its Bladen County office, 116 W. Broad St. in Elizabethtown.

Grief group discussions include understanding the grief process; coping with loss; defining realistic expectations for the holidays; and suggestions for creating new holiday traditions.

Registration is required. For more information or to register call 515-6689. When leaving a message, please leave your name, phone number and indicate the specific program you wish to attend. Donations are appreciated.

Lower Cape Fear Hospice is a nonprofit agency that provides healthcare and comfort to people with advanced illnesses; support and counseling to families; and education in Bladen, Brunswick, Columbus, New Hanover, Onslow and Pender counties in North Carolina, and Horry County in South Carolina. For more information, visit [www.lcfh.org](http://www.lcfh.org) or [facebook.com/lcfhospice](https://facebook.com/lcfhospice).

## Bladen County Parks and Recreation

Patti Miller with Bladen County Parks and Recreation told the Healthy Bladen Collaborative group that her department has sent three teams to play in the All Stars Soccer tourney and the 14 youth team brought home a silver medal.

Miller said that basketball registration is under way and cost is \$30 to participate and there are three age groups – 6 to 8 co-ed; 9 to 12 years old boys; and 9 to 12 years old girls. Applications can be obtained from the Bladen County Parks and Recreation office located at 803 West King Street in Elizabethtown.

Miller said a new item this year that the Parks and Recreation staff is excited about is a **Baseball Hitting Camp** that will take place on **Dec. 19** and will be taught by Paul Faulk and his son Tripp Faulk. Paul Faulk is an area baseball scout for the Washington Nationals and was affiliated with the Giants and Indians teams. Tripp Faulk is a baseball coach at Carson-Newman College. For more information on the baseball camp, call the Parks and Recreation Office at [910.862.6770](tel:910.862.6770).

# Low Income Energy Assistance Program

**What is the Low Income Energy Assistance Program?** It is a federally funded program that provides a one-time annual vendor payment to help eligible families pay their heating expense.

**When can I apply for Low Income Energy Assistance?** December 1-December 31, 2015 priority will be given to households, with an elderly person age 60 and above or a disabled person receiving services through the Division on Aging and Adult Services (DAAS), until funds are exhausted. All households **MUST** meet all other eligibility requirements.

## **Who is eligible to receive Low Income Energy Assistance?**

Households must meet all the following:

- > An income test
- > Have resources no more than \$2250.00
- > Be responsible for their heating bills. If the utility bill is not in applicants name, a written statement from the person whose name the bill is in, must be provided stating that the applicant is responsible for the bill.
- > Include a U.S. citizen or non-citizen who meets eligibility criteria.

## Low Income Energy Assistance Program

Where can I apply for Low Income Energy Assistance? Contact the **Bladen County Department of Social Services**. You must apply at the Bladen County Department of Social Services within the county you reside. Telephone applications can be requested if necessary. Telephone applications must be received in the agency and all paperwork must be completed prior to being keyed and authorized.

What information will be needed to complete a Low Income Energy Assistance application?

- > Verification of Earned Income
- > Verification of Unearned Income (Child Support, Social Security, SSI Benefits)
- > Social Security number for each household member
- > Verification of Resources (Savings and Checking Accounts, Retirement Account, Stock, Bond, Saving Certificate)
- > Current Utility Bill (Gas, Oil, Lights)
- > North Carolina Driver's License or Valid I.D. card
- > If Utility bill is not in applicant's name, a written statement from the person whose name the bill is in, must be provided stating that the applicant is responsible for the bill.

LOW INCOME ENERGY ASSISTANCE PAYMENTS ARE MADE TO A VENDOR (Oil Company, Light Company, Gas Company) no payment is made to a private individual.

**\*Only one payment is made to each household.\***

For more info, please contact:

> Lisa Nance 910.862.6800 Bladen County DSS Energy Supervisor

> Patricia Smith 910.862.6800

> ENERGY HOTLINE 910.862.6888

## THREE TIPS TO AVOID HOLIDAY SHOPPING HEADACHES

<http://www.cbsnews.com/news/3-tips-to-avoid-holiday-shopping-headaches/>

Shopping during the holidays can be overwhelming -- whether it's finding the right gift or the right deal, it's sometimes hard to navigate the crowds and the "best practices" of holiday shopping.

Retail analyst Hitha Herzog offered some easy tips that can come in handy this Black Friday, Cyber Monday, and the rest of the holiday season.

### **Take your phone.**

"Customer is key this holiday season and it is all about mobile," said Herzog.

She describes smartphones as the "most important tool that you can use shopping." One big reason is using it to pay for gifts. Herzog says you can leave your credit cards at home and use alternate credit systems like PayPal. Going beyond convenience she says you won't have to worry as much with credit card fraud and there are options to help with paying off your balance.

### **Get organized.**

Herzog said your phone will also be your "best friend" when it comes to organizing your budget and list.

One way to do that is through apps, like Santa's Bag. The app allows users to set and manage budgets for their personalized gift list.

Another app that is one of Herzog's favorites is Mint. "It has been around for a while, but this helps you figure out how much you're spending, where your money is going, and it will give you reminders to stop spending if it thinks you are going over budget," she explained.

### **Negotiate on price.**

Retailers want to move old merchandise out of the store before the start of the new year, so Herzog said don't be afraid to negotiate. "If there is a deal of maybe 40 percent to 50 percent (off), go ahead and ask them if maybe they can take \$10 off or 10 percent off," she recommended.

You could have success in getting a better deal, but the key to getting close to those negotiated discounts, according to Herzog, is with some kindness and a simple smile.

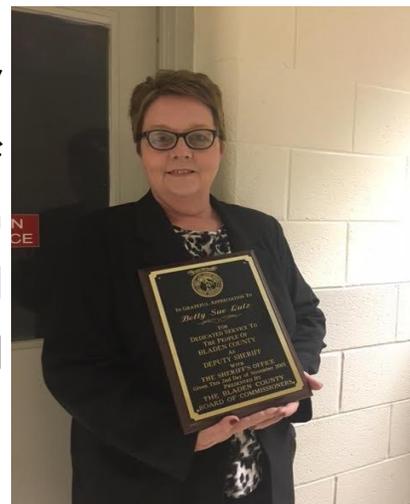
## RENEE DAVIS NEW BLADEN COUNTY TAX ADMINISTRATOR



The Bladen County Board of Commissioners announced **Renee Davis** as the new Bladen County Tax Administrator. She was given her oath of office during the Monday meeting of the Bladen County Board of Commissioners, on November 16th. Davis had previously served as the interim tax administrator/assessor, since August. She stepped into her new role on November 3rd. (Bladen Online)

## SUE LUTZ, FIRST WOMAN DETECTIVE IN BLADEN RETIRES

Bladen County Detective **Sue Lutz** retired from the Bladen County Sheriff's Department effective November 1st and was honored at the commissioner's meeting. Lutz was the first woman detective in Bladen County back in 1991 according to former Sheriff Storms. She worked for the department for twenty-five years. During retirement, she and her teenage son plan to travel to Florida. (Bladen Online)



## BLADEN COUNTY PUBLIC LIBRARY WELCOMES LEIGH CROMARTIE

Bladen County Public Library welcomes **Leigh Cromartie**, Book Mobile Library Assistant. She will travel to local community schools and homes on the bookmobile. Bookmobiles and direct-delivery outreach services are, and continue to be an integral, vital part of libraries in our county and around the country everywhere.

## **BLADEN COUNTY CHILD SUPPORT AMNESTY DAY**

**WHAT:** Collaboration between Bladen DSS, Johnson Law Firm and Bladen County Courts.

**FOR:** Opportunity for Non-Custodial Parents to resolve their Child Support Order(s) for arrest without fear of being arrested.

**WHEN:** **December 8, 2015, 9:30 a.m.**

**WHERE:** **Bladen County Courthouse, Child Support Court**

**REQUIREMENT:** Appear in court with a payment of at least \$500 (per case)

- ALL non-custodial parents with outstanding orders (60) are being sent information to contact their Child Support Caseworker to make arrangements for court on December 8th, 2015.
- Information will also be in the local news media.
- Job Leads will also be available
  - A) Registration with NC Works
  - B) Vocational Rehabilitation
- Bladen County Child Support wants parents working, not in jail, to be able to meet the needs of their children.



Bladen Community College Presents:

## “FINANCING YOUR BUSINESS”

WHEN: Tuesday, December 8th

WHERE: Bladen County Public Library, Elizabethtown  
111 N. Cypress Street

TIME: 2:30 P.M. to 4:30 P.M.

CALL TO PRE-REGISTER 910. 879.5572

*Learn how to get the money you need! This course will assist you in understanding the basic financial information necessary for starting a business or expanding one. This seminar is perfect to follow up with other SBC workshops. You may also receive free counseling to follow up as well.*



*Join us for our annual*

# *Christmas Party*

*Register of Deeds Office  
Courthouse Room #118*

*Friday December 4, 2015*

*11:00 am until 2:00pm*

# EMPLOYEE APPRECIATION LUNCHEON



Friday, December 11, 2015

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

Powell-Melvin Agriculture Center

## December 2015

1. BCC Board of Trustees Meeting, 6 p.m., Board Room, Essic Williams Administration Building
4. Register of Deeds Office **Christmas Party**-Bladen County Employees, 11 a.m.—2:00 p.m.; **4-H Toy Drive Ends**
5. Bladenboro **Christmas** Parade, 10:30 a.m.
7. Prayer Service, 8:15 a.m.; Lower Cape Fear Hospice “Hope for the Holidays” Grief Workshop, 10 a.m.; Elizabethtown Planning Board, 5:30 p.m., Board of Commissioners Meeting, 6:30 p.m.; Town Council Meeting, 7 p.m.
12. **“Snacks with Mrs. Santa”**, Bladen County Public Library, Elizabethtown, 10 a.m. Call 910.862.6990 for more info; “Intro to Carolina Bays”, Jones Lake State Park, 3:00 p.m. Call 910.588.4550 for more info.; Emergency Services Appreciation Dinner, First Baptist Church, Elizabethtown, 6:30 p.m.
18. BCC **“Financing Your Business”** Bladen County Public Library, 2:30 p.m. —4:30 p.m.
19. First Annual Baseball Hitting Camp, Call 910.862.6770 for more information; “Intro to Carolina Bays”, Jones Lake State Park, 3:00 p.m., Call 910.588.4550 for more information
21. Board of Commissioners Meeting, 6:30 p.m.
- 23. Christmas Holiday—All Bladen County Offices Closed**
- 24. Christmas Holiday—All Bladen County Offices Closed**
- 25. Christmas Holiday—All Bladen County Offices Closed**
26. “Animals of Jones Lake”, Jones Lake State Park, 3:00 p.m., Call 910.588.4550 for more information.
31. New Year’s Eve





**\*HOLIDAY CLOSINGS\***

DECEMBER 23RD, 24TH, & 25TH

JANUARY 1ST