



TEAM BLADEN

January 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:

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: 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

28th Annual Parade Honoring Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.



The 28th annual parade honoring the birthday of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. will be held in Elizabethtown on Monday, Jan. 18, 2016 at 11 a.m.

Martin Luther King Day celebrates the life and accomplishments of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. MLK promoted Civil Rights through nonviolent civil disobedience. He is perhaps best known for his "I Have a Dream..." speech in 1963. He was

assassinated in 1968. Martin Luther King, Jr. Day became a federally recognized holiday in 1983. The first year this holiday was observed was January 20, 1986, and not by all states. In 2000, it became a nationally observed holiday in all states—with South Carolina becoming the last state to recognize Martin Luther King Jr's birth date as an official state holiday. Martin Luther King Jr. Day always takes place on the third Monday of January each year.

Everyone but not limited to civic and religious organizations, bands, step-teams, antique vehicles and farm equipment, queens etc. are invited to participate. The public can send requests to participate in the parade to abullock001@ec.rr.com. There is no fee involved. Individuals, groups or organizations that want a float should call [\(910\) 645-4995](tel:9106454995) for float information. The line-up starts at 9 a.m. at 805 West Broad Street; Elizabethtown.

<http://www.bladenonline.com/mlk-parade-set-for-jan-18/>

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Martin_Luther_King,_Jr._Day



County of Bladen
State of North Carolina



Shonteia Keaton Appointed Human Resources Director

Shonteia Keaton has been appointed as the Bladen County Human Resources Director. She began her new duties on Monday, December 14. Keaton succeeds Amy Pharr, who resigned the position at beginning of July.

As Human Resources Director, Keaton is responsible for overseeing and providing services to full-time and part-time employees; which include benefits, employee communications, pay and classification management, and much more.

Keaton earned a Bachelor of Arts degree in Sociology from Shaw University, and a dual Master degree in Human Resources Management and Leadership & Management from Webster University. She has been with Bladen County Government for four years serving first as a Foster Care Social Worker, and more recently as the CAP (Community Alternatives Program) Supervisor at the Health Department. She began her career in 2000, working for Home Care Management while earning her Bachelor degree. After earning her Bachelor degree, Keaton began working for Easter Seals. Her first experience working in county government was from 2007-2012 in Pender County's Mental Health Department.

"My motto is taking small steps to achieve major goals. This is a great opportunity to ensure that County employees and citizens will continue to be served with compassion, respect, and fairness. It's simply an honor to be chosen as the new Human Resources Director, and I look forward to doing my absolute best as I strive to help others," stated Keaton.

"We are pleased to welcome Shonteia as the Human Resources Director," said County Manager Greg Martin. "Shonteia brings a strong work ethic and a track record of success in previous positions. We are confident that she will provide outstanding service to our employees and serve our County well."

Keaton lives in Riegelwood with her three children.

Commissioners Recognize White on Retirement

The Bladen County Board of Commissioners recognized Marsha White for her retirement from the Bladen Board of Elections on Monday.

As one of his final duties as Chairman Charles Ray Peterson presented White with a plaque recognizing her service to the county.

Bladen County Board of Elections Director Cynthia Shaw and Board of Elections Chairman Bobby Ludlum were also present for the presentation. They also told the board that White will be assisting with the upcoming 2016 election cycle.

Following the presentation and election of the new commissioners board chairman and vice-chairman, a reception was held.

<http://www.bladenonline.com/commissioners-recognize-white-on-retirement/>



Bladen County Commissioners Select New Chairman, Vice Chairman

The Bladen County Board of Commissioners met on Monday, December 7th and named Russell Priest as the new chairman and Arthur Bullock as the vice-chairman.

When the floor was opened for nominations, Charles Ray Peterson and Priest, were both nominated for chairman.

The vote in support of Priest as chairman was 6-3 with Peterson, Dowless and Pait casting the lone no votes.

When the floor was opened for nominations for vice-chairman, Bullock and Pait were both nominated.

The vote in support of Bullock's nomination was 6-3 with Peterson, Dowless and Pait casting the lone no votes.

<http://www.bladenonline.com/bladen-county-commissioners-select-new-chairman-vice-chairman/>

Advisory Board Appointed

The Bladen County Board of Commissioners recently appointed and/or reappointed members to a number of advisory boards throughout the county. Those names, approved during the county's regular meeting on Monday, Dec. 21, are as follows:

- Ammon fire Dept. Firefighters Relief Fund Board: Veona Hicks appointed
- BARTS Advisory Board: Wendell Brown, Jerry Graham, Erica Campbell, Amanda Sykes, Sharon Anderson; all reappointed
- Bay Tree Fire Dept. Firefighters Relief Fund Board: Lenox Harrelson reappointed
- Division on Aging Advisory Committee: Michael Cogdell, Mary Andrews, each reappointed.
- East Arcadia Fire Dept. Firefighters Relief Fund Board: Cathy King reappointed
- Economic Development Commission Advisory Committee: Reappointed: Rich Glenn, Darrell Page, Michael Cogdell, Howell Clark, Warren Dale Graham, Rufus Duckworth, Larry Barnhardt; Appointed Don White
- Health & Human Services Advisory Council: Dr. Ray Cross, Dr. Kathleen Heer, Linda Gillespie, Tommy Thompson, Dr. Douglas Gensel all reappointed
- Hickory Grove Fire Dept. Firefighters Relief Fund Board: Bambi Dove reappointed
- Kelly Fire Dept. Firefighters Relief Fund Board: Bobby Lee Russ reappointed
- Library Board: Shonteia Keaton, Gloris Lloyd, Barbara Wilkins reappointed
- Lisbon Fire Dept. Firefighters Relief Fund Board: Dan Alford reappointed
- Local Emergency Planning Committee: Charlotte Smith appointed to fill an unexpired term (through June 30, 2017)
- Personnel Advisory Board: Betty McLaughlin, Patsy Priest reappointed
- Tar Heel Fire Dept. Firefighters Relief Fund Board: Eddie Knight reappointed
- Tobermory Fire Dept. Firefighters Relief Fund Board: Michael S. Underwood reappointed
- White Oak Fire Dept. Firefighters Relief Fund Board: Ryan Varley reappointed

<http://bladenjournal.com/news/3567/advisoryboardsappointed>

Tony Parrish selected as Elizabethtown Police Chief



The town of Elizabethtown has named Tony Parrish to serve as police chief. Parrish replaces Chief Bobby Kinlaw who retired after serving 34 years with the Elizabethtown Police Department. Parrish began his career in law enforcement in 1988 as a patrolman with the city of Greenville. In 1990, he joined the North Carolina Highway Patrol and has continued his career with the Highway Patrol attaining the rank of First Sergeant in 2009. Parrish currently oversees 28 patrolman and one office assistant in Bladen and Columbus counties. He has over 4,400 hour of documented law enforcement training with 604 of those hours being in the area of law enforcement management.

Kip Hester will continue serving as Acting Chief for the police department until Parrish assumes his duties on April 1, 2016.

<http://www.bladenonline.com/elizabethtown-names-new-police-chief/>

Healthy Bladen Collaborative Meeting

Tuesday, January 26, 2016

9:00 a.m.

Bladen County Health Department

Large Conference Room

Wildlife Commission to Conduct Nine Public Hearings Starting Jan. 5



RALEIGH, N.C. (Dec. 9, 2015) — The N.C. Wildlife Resources Commission will conduct nine public hearings in January on proposed changes to the state's wildlife management, game lands and fishing regulations for the 2016-17 seasons.

Among the wildlife management-related proposed changes is one that would allow the sale of raw (untanned) deer hides from an animal that has been legally harvested or was killed by a motor vehicle. Current regulations regarding the reporting and identification of harvested deer would apply, but there are no proposed additional tagging requirements for selling hides. Processed hides require a Trophy Sale permit in order to be sold legally.

Another wildlife management-related proposal would change the definition of a bear cub from any bear weighing less than 50 pounds to one weighing less than 75 pounds. This proposed regulation is necessary to make the commission's rules consistent with state law adopted in the 2015 legislative session.

In the Piedmont and Coastal areas of the state, a proposed regulation would allow youth to hunt all day in waterfowl impoundments on designated youth waterfowl days. Currently, waterfowl hunting in managed waterfowl impoundments must end at 1 p.m. and decoys must be removed by 3 p.m. Removing these time barriers will allow youth additional hunting opportunities and encourage youth hunter recruitment and retention.

Another proposal would allow Wildlife Damage Control Agents to renew their status every three years by attending the commission's training course or completing an equivalent in continuing education courses. Currently, the only option agents have for recertification is attending a commission training course; however, this proposal, if passed, will give agents more options and flexibility when getting recertified.

More information on all of the proposed regulations to the state's wildlife management, game lands and fishing regulations for the 2016-17 seasons can be found online.

The comment period for all other proposed regulations will run through Jan. 25, 2016. After collecting and considering all public comments, the 19 Wildlife Commissioners will meet on Feb. 11, 2016 to decide whether to adopt the proposals. Approved proposals will take effect Aug. 1, 2016.

The schedule for the 2016-17 public hearings is below. Public hearings begin at 7 p.m.

Jan. 5 (Tues.)	4	Dublin	Bladen Community College Auditorium 7418 N.C. Hwy. 41W Dublin, N.C. 28332
Jan. 6 (Wed.)	5	Graham	Southern Alamance High School 631 Southern High School Road Graham, N.C. 27253
Jan. 7 (Thurs.)	6	Norwood	South Stanly High School 40488 South Stanly School Rd. Norwood, N.C. 28128
Jan. 12 (Tues.)	9	Clyde	Haywood Community College Auditorium 185 Freelander Drive Clyde, N.C.
Jan. 13 (Wed.)	8	Morganton	Western Piedmont Community College Leviton Auditorium, Moore Hall 1001 Burkemont Ave. Morganton, N.C. 28655
Jan. 14 (Thurs.)	7	Elkin	Elkin High School 334 Elk Spur Street Elkin, N.C. 28621
Jan. 19 (Tues.)	1	Edenton	Swain Auditorium 200 E. Church St. Edenton, N.C. 27932
Jan. 20 (Wed.)	2	New Bern	Craven Community College Orringer Auditorium 800 College Court New Bern, N.C. 28562
Jan. 21 (Thurs.)	3	Rocky Mount	Nash Community College Brown Auditorium 454 N. Old Carriage Road Rocky Mount, N.C. 27804

2015 Property Taxes Due

DUE
TAXES

The deadline to pay your 2015 property taxes is January 5, 2016. Bladen County Tax Administrator Renee Davis said that on January 6, 2016, all past due amounts for the 2015 property tax year will be charged 2 percent interest. You can stop by the Bladen County Tax Office located in the Bladen County Courthouse (Room 109) and pay them in person or mail the payment in but the envelope must be postmarked no later than January 5, 2016.

You can also pay your taxes online by going to www.bladeninfo.org; select the tab labeled departments then select tax administration and follow the link to pay your tax bill using your credit or debit card. Another payment method available is to pay by telephone by calling 1-877-369-0025.

Anyone with questions or concerns about their tax bill can call the Tax Office at 910-862-6730.

Camp Clearwater Polar Plunge

Camp Clearwater is planning to welcome the new year by inviting hearty souls to take a dip in White Lake during the fourth annual Polar Plunge.

At noon on Friday, Jan. 1, the plunge will take place near the arcade as people will run into White Lake for a quick dip or a swim. Nearly 50 people participated in the plunge on Jan. 1, 2014, and about 30 ran into the water on Jan. 1, 2015, when the water temperature was 42 degrees. The plunge is open to the public and spectators are welcome.

The New Year's Day forecast, according to the National Weather Service, calls for mostly cloudy conditions with a high of 55 degrees.

The event began in 2013 when former Army soldier Ray Goodin challenged ex-Marine Al Pingree to jump into White Lake on New Year's Day.

FREEZE KIDS' CREDIT TO GUARD AGAINST ID THEFT, AG COOPER URGES NC PARENTS

[HTTP://NCDOJ.COM/NEWS-AND-ALERTS/NEWS-RELEASES-AND-ADVISORIES/PRESS-RELEASES/FREEZE-KIDS%E2%80%99-CREDIT-TO-GUARD-AGAINST-ID-THEFT,-AG.ASPX](http://ncdoj.com/news-and-alerts/news-releases-and-advisories/press-releases/freeze-kids%E2%80%99-credit-to-guard-against-id-theft,-ag.aspx)

Starting January 1, parents will be able to use security freezes to protect children's credit. Raleigh: Parents will soon have a new tool to help protect their children's credit from fraud. Attorney General Roy Cooper said today.

North Carolina House Bill 607 takes effect January 1 and gives parents and guardians the ability to freeze the credit reports of all children under age 16.

"A security freeze locks down your credit report to keep identity thieves from opening accounts and racking up debts in your name," Cooper said. "ID theft can strike victims of any age and now parents can protect their kids' credit from the very beginning."

In the past, the major credit bureaus have said that they could not freeze credit reports for minors who had not yet established any credit. The new law requires credit bureaus to create and freeze a child's credit report upon request of a parent or guardian.

A security freeze or credit freeze is one of the best ways to keep criminals from being able to take out a loan or open a credit card in someone else's name. A freeze blocks access to credit unless you have given your permission, meaning that a criminal who has stolen your child's identity will not be able to use it to open new accounts.

How to get a security freeze for your children

Starting January 1:

- Request a security freeze for your child under age 16 by mail, by telephone, or online. Visit ncdoj.gov/creditfreeze for contact information.
- To lift a freeze permanently or temporarily, use the PIN or password established when setting up the freeze.
- It may cost up to \$5 per credit bureau to place or lift a freeze on a child's credit.
- A freeze is free if the child already has a credit report or has been a victim of identity theft.

North Carolina adults can freeze their credit reports for free online with each of the three major credit bureaus, with information available at ncdoj.gov. Once your credit is frozen, you can thaw it when needed to take out credit yourself.

For more tips on protecting your identity and cleaning up the damage ID theft can cause, visit ncdoj.gov or call 1-877-5-NO-SCAM toll-free within North Carolina.

Contact: [Samantha Cole](#)

Phone: 919-716-0400

Improving Your Credit Score for a Business Loan

Beginning in January, the Small Business Center (SBC) of Bladen Community College is offering several no-cost seminars to help grow or start your business.

To prepare entrepreneurs and those who are just thinking about starting a business, the first seminar is Improving Your Credit Score for a Business Loan. The workshop is Tuesday January 12th from 6-8:00 PM. Expert speaker Bob Moore will equip you with tips and tricks to improve your credit score before you seek a business loan.

Also on Tuesday January 12th from 2:30-4:30 PM at the Bladen County Public Library in Elizabethtown, the Start Your Business series continues with Basics of Book Keeping, a timely topic with tax season quickly approaching.

Anyone thinking of starting or expanding their business might want to consider attending 500 Home-Based Business Ideas. The seminar is on the BCC main campus on Thursday January 21st from 6:30-9:00 PM.

Perfect for novice event planners and for those just needing a fresh perspective and skills enhancement, Event Planning for Small Businesses/Non-Profits, is scheduled on Tuesday January 26th from 6:00-8:00 PM at the Bladen County Public Library.

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: <https://www.ncsbc.net/center.aspx?center=75040>

Bladen Community College Board of Trustees Meeting



Chairman Dennis Troy has announced a called meeting of the Bladen Community College Board of Trustees for Tuesday, January 5, 2016, at 6 PM in the trustee board room located in the Essic Williams Administration Building (building 10) at the college. The Trustees will meet to discuss construction matters, and litigation and legal issues with their attorney.

Bladen Community College Final Registration Spring Semester 2016

FINAL REGISTRATION: January 5 ~ January 6, 2016
9:00 a.m. - 2:00 p.m. and 4:00 p.m. - 7:00 p.m.

Classes Begin: January 11, 2016 Classes End: May 12, 2016

APPLICATIONS MUST BE SUBMITTED BEFORE REGISTERING FOR CLASS

Bladen Community College

The Small Business Center Network, comprised of 58 Small Business Centers throughout North Carolina, supports the development of new businesses and the growth of existing businesses by being a community-based provider of training, counseling, and resource information.



To receive updates about Bladen SBC, TEXT @sbcn to (910) 984-8069

Twice a year, the center offers the following "How to" seminars:
Start a Business - Learn the basics to getting your business up and running
Write a Business Plan - blueprint for your business; most lenders require one
Market Your Business - techniques that will get your business noticed
Taxes and Record-keeping - ins and outs of the how and why on records
Financing and Funding Your Business - how to get the money you need

Contact Small Business Center:
Todd Lyden, Director
7418 NC Hwy 41W | Dublin, NC 28332
Email: tlyden@bladencc.edu
Phone: [910.879.5572](tel:910.879.5572)
Fax: 910.879.5569

Enjoy New Year's Day in the Great Outdoors

This January 1st, North Carolina State Parks will be hosting 1st Day Hikes to start the year off right. Many parks will be hosting guided hikes at varying levels, or you can explore your favorite park on your own. We resolve to have a year full of fun, history and nature as part of our Centennial Celebration. Do you?

Jones Lake State Park

<http://www.ncparks.gov/jones-lake-state-park>

910.588.4550

First Day Discovery Hike

Start the year off in the outdoors! Join a park ranger for a short hike (1 mile) 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 a.m. for this program. Please bring bug spray, water, and hiking shoes. This event is free and is open to the general public. Contact the park office at 910.588.4550 with any questions.

Date of Event: Friday, January 1, 2016

Time: 10 a.m.

Start Location: Visitor Center



No Junk Food Challenge:

no biscuits or cookies

no cake, donuts or muffins

no candy

no pastries

no chocolate

no white bread

no ice cream

no fast food

no chips

no soda

for 21 Days!

12 MONTHS TO A BETTER YOU

Make one small change a month.

JANUARY

DRINK MORE WATER

It sounds so simple, but it works. One study found that drinking water helps you lose weight. Water keeps you feeling full so you'll eat less. Plus, it flushes out toxins. Drink a minimum of eight 8-ounce cups per day. And if you're thirsty, drink another glass.

FEBRUARY

MAKE BREAKFAST A PRIORITY

A study of people who lost 30 pounds or more and kept it off for more than a year showed 78 percent ate breakfast. Keep breakfast simple with a bowl of whole-grain cereal with nonfat milk and fruit or whole-wheat toast with low-fat cheese and yogurt.

MARCH

GET MORE SLEEP

Research shows that one-quarter of adults in the U.S. don't get enough sleep. Getting your ZZZs helps your body fight off illnesses like the cold or flu, and may lower your risk of heart disease and diabetes. For a better, healthier you, aim for 7 to 8 hours of sleep a night.

APRIL

KEEP A FOOD JOURNAL

Writing down what you eat may double your weight loss, according to researchers. Keeping track of your intake makes you more aware of what you're eating. It also helps you identify specific food habits and where you can make healthy changes.

MAY

GO FOR A WALK

When it comes to exercise, walking is free, requires no special equipment and can be done anywhere. You need 30 minutes of walking at a brisk pace five days a week. If time is a problem, break your walks into 10 or 15-minute intervals two to three times a day.

JUNE

EAT YOUR FRUITS AND VEGGIES

Low in calories and full of fiber, you can't go wrong eating more of these nutrient-rich gems. You'll have an easier time maintaining a healthy weight and also a lower risk of heart disease, diabetes and certain types of cancer. Fill half your plate with fruits and veggies.

JULY

DOWNSIZE YOUR PLATES

Your eyes can sometimes be too big for your stomach. Trade your large dinner plate for a smaller lunch plate to cut portions and save calories. Your plate will look full and satisfying, but you'll eat less.

AUGUST

GO MEATLESS

You don't have to give up meat altogether, but make a plan to eat one or two meatless meals a week for better health. One study showed that eating less meat, specifically red meat and deli meat, may lower your risk of cancer and heart disease.

SEPTEMBER

FIND A WORKOUT BUDDY

Working out with a friend may increase your motivation to exercise. It makes workouts more fun when you add a social element to them. Plus, an accountability system helps you stay consistent.

OCTOBER

SAVOR YOUR MEALS

Perfect the art of slow eating. It takes your brain 20 minutes to send out signals of fullness. Taking your time when eating helps you eat fewer calories and leaves you feeling more satisfied.

NOVEMBER

UNPLUG AND UNWIND

The constant buzz of phone and email messages makes it hard to relax. Research shows that heavy technology use may lead to an increased risk of depression, stress and sleep disorders. Make time to put the technology away and connect with yourself and loved ones.

DECEMBER

DON'T SKIP MEALS

Don't let your social calendar thwart all your efforts. You may be tempted to skip lunch or dinner in an effort to save room for party food, but it may backfire. Skipping meals leads to extreme hunger, and you may end up eating more than you intended.

January 2016

Weight Loss Awareness Month

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
					1 New Year's Day - Offices Closed	2
3	4 8:00am - Prayer Service 6:30pm - Board of Commissioners Meeting 6:30pm - Public Hearing Regarding Interim Financing Application related to a Detention & Law Enforcement Center	5 Last Day to pay 2015 County Property Taxes; 2% interest in addition effective 1/6/2016	6	7 Library Story Time 10 a.m. & 3:30 p.m.	8	9
10	11	12 Bladen County School Board Meeting - 6 p.m.	13	14 Bridger Memorial Library Board Meeting - 4 p.m. Library Story Time 10 a.m. & 3:30 p.m.	15	16
17	18 Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Day - Offices Closed 11am - Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Parade Elizabethtown	19 6:30pm - Board of Commissioners Meeting	20 Grandparents & Kinship Caregiver's Raising Grandchildren Support Group Meeting - 10 a.m.	21 Elizabethtown Library Board Meeting - 5 p.m. Library Story Time 10 a.m. & 3:30 p.m.	22	23
24	25	26 Healthy Bladen Meeting - 9:00 a.m.	27	28 Library Story Time 10 a.m. & 3:30 p.m.	29	30
31						