

## FROM THE COUNTY MANAGER

It's amazing that good news can come at bad times. Unfortunately, we are living in times now that abound with bad news. The worst economic downturn since the Great Depression; double digit unemployment; disasters around the world of historic magnitude; and political unrest in globally sensitive regions of the world...just to name a few of course. Certainly Edgecombe County is no stranger to bad news. We have frequently found ourselves at the top and bottom of many bad lists.

In spite of all that, we have to be careful not to define ourselves by that bad news that we forget to celebrate any occasion of good news. In fact, we recently have had a lot to celebrate. We have had a number of job creation announcements including Jade Apparel 250 jobs, QVC 200 jobs, KCST 50 jobs, and FCA 40 jobs; all within the last 6 months. Following the 2000 census, we had to wear the label of one of the few counties with declining population; but the 2010 census shows we had some population growth. Edgecombe County Schools has reported a decline in the dropout rate. Even closer to home, when some of our neighboring counties are resorting to furloughs, layoffs and reduced benefits, we have been able to hold our own and haven't had to resort to such measures so far.

So, just for a moment, let's bask in the rare sunshine of this good news. Everything in Edgecombe County is not bad as some would believe. We obviously have our challenges, but we have some successes too. So for those of us who live and/or work in Edgecombe County, join me in feeling great about our good news.



## EMPLOYEE NEWS

- **Trina Williams** with Veterans Services is requesting **voluntary shared leave**. If you would like to donate leave, contact Carolyn Hedgepeth at 641-7832.
- The **Annual Health Risk Assessment Screenings** are scheduled for the week of May 9<sup>th</sup>. Online registration will begin April 18<sup>th</sup>. More detailed instructions are forthcoming.
- ECC is having a class titled, "**Workplace Spanish for Customer Service**" which starts **April 11<sup>th</sup>** and held Monday and Wednesdays 6:00 – 8:30 PM. It will last 5 weeks and the cost is \$65.00. For more information, or to sign up, call Mary Proctor at 823-5166 ext. 265 or email [proctor@edgecombe.edu](mailto:proctor@edgecombe.edu)
- It's not too late to **donate items** for the **Relay for Life Silent Auction** to be held May 5<sup>th</sup> & 6<sup>th</sup>. Items can be delivered to the Planning Office.

April 4<sup>th</sup>-10<sup>th</sup> is National Public Health Week. This is the week that we celebrate and educate on public health facilities and issues that affect the public's health. This year, the theme for Public Health Week is titled "Safety Is No Accident." Unintentional injuries are in the top 5 leading causes of death. In 2007, an estimated 124,000 people died from unintentional injuries. Taking precautions to be safe can protect you and the people around you.

Here are some quick tips on how to stay safe:

- Wear a seat belt when driving
- Use products for their intended purposes
- Keep chemical solutions and pills out of reach of children
- Be aware of safety equipment around you
- Adhere to all safety instructions when in possession of a firearm
- Be aware of your surroundings
- Know the phone number to emergency services
- Keep an ICE (In Case of Emergency) contact list in the contacts of your cell phone

Public Health week is also a time to reflect on the mission of the Edgecombe County Health Department. "We exist to serve all citizens in the prevention of disease and injury through protection, promotion, and delivery of quality, cost-effective services for community, personal, and environmental health."

The Edgecombe County Health Department accomplishes this goal through healthcare services, WIC, Family planning, Homecare/Hospice, Health Education, and many more services. We invite you to contribute to our mission by living a healthy lifestyle with a proper diet and plenty of exercise. Make health and safety a part of your life and the lives of those around you. We can become a healthier community. As you celebrate National Public Health Week, remember this famous quote from Ralph Waldo Emerson: "The first wealth is health."

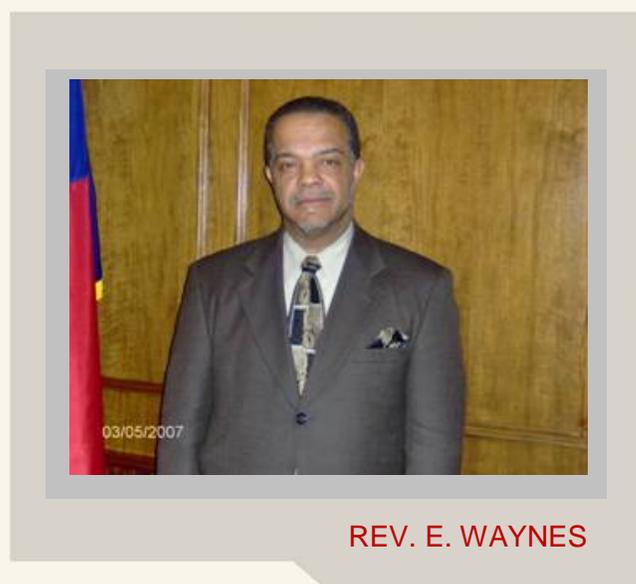
Derrick Haskins, Health Promotion Coordinator

### GET TO KNOW YOUR COMMISSIONERS

Rev. Wayne Hines represents the 7<sup>th</sup> Commissioner district consisting of most of the Edgecombe County side of Rocky Mount. He has served as a commissioner for 12 years. Rev. Hines is the pastor of Bethlehem Baptist in Tarboro and Bunn Chapel in Nash County, where he has served for over 30 years. He retired from law enforcement with the City of Rocky Mount's Police Department, and also drove a bus for Coastal Plain Charter. He is very well known for his daily radio show "Joy in the Morning" on 92.1 FM which airs from 11 to 1.

Rev. Hines is married to Carolyn Hines and they have 4 children and 9 grandchildren.

## NATIONAL PUBLIC HEALTH WEEK



REV. E. WAYNES

**Funny Quote of the month:** "Last night I lay in bed looking up at the stars in the sky and I thought to myself....where the heck is the ceiling.." *Unknown*



ADMINISTRATIVE  
PROFESSIONALS DAY  
LUNCHEON CELEBRATION

Tarboro Edgecombe  
Chamber of Commerce  
&  
ECC's Small Business Center  
Present....

Administrative Professionals Day  
Luncheon Celebration

Wednesday, April 20<sup>th</sup>

O'Henry's Restaurant  
609 West Wilson St., Tarboro

11:30 AM until 2:00 PM

Treat your Administrative Assistant to a fun networking event dedicated to those who help keep it all together!

Luncheon includes...

Salad, lunch & dessert, door prizes & Fashion Show sponsored by Belk Department Store & Henrietta's Plus Size Clothing for Women

Reserved tables of eight for \$250 – includes your company's name on table and in the program

Advanced Reservations Only ~ \$25 per person

To purchase tickets contact Bobbie Martin, 823-7241 or [bmartin@tarborochamber.com](mailto:bmartin@tarborochamber.com)

## DATES TO REMEMBER

- Commissioners Meeting – Apr. 4<sup>th</sup> at 7:00 PM
- Dept. Head Meeting – Apr. 6<sup>th</sup> at 8:30 AM
- Dept. Head Meeting – Apr. 20<sup>th</sup> at 8:30 AM
- Administrative Professionals Day – Apr. 20<sup>th</sup>
- Good Friday Holiday – Apr. 22<sup>nd</sup>, Administrative Offices Closed