

RICHMOND COUNTY GOVERNMENT

COUNTY CLIPS

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REPORT ISSUED ON STATE OF COUNTY

Chairman Kenneth Robinette delivered a State of the County address during the Board of Commissioners April meeting.

In his address, Robinette discussed important issues facing the county now, while he also highlighted goals that the County had met in the previous year.

The six-page report is available at public libraries

in the county, as well as a number of County Government offices.

The entire address can also be found on the County's Website, located at www.richmondnc.com.

The Board of Commissioners decided to release the report during the first full week in April, which is recognized as National County Government Week.

As part of the week's activities, each County was asked to issue an address, similar to the President's State of the Union address. Because the Board of Commissioners believes it is important to communicate with the citizens the County serves, Chairman Robinette chose to deliver the address during the regularly scheduled board meeting.

TAP INTO COUNTY WATER

New water lines in southeast Richmond County, along Springhill Church Road, Ghio Road and Hwy. 381, from the Richmond/Scotland County line to Hwy. 74 Business have been completed, and are available for water taps to be installed.

Tap fees are currently \$500 for 3/4 inch taps. Existing homes will have until July 1, 2009, to connect at the current rate. After that date, there will be an additional \$1,000 fee added for all existing homes.

Applications for taps will be accepted at

the Richmond County Administrative Building, located in downtown Rockingham, at 125 S. Hancock Street. Taps will be installed on a first-come, first-serve basis.

Home owners are asked to bring a copy of their deed when applying for water service. A \$100 deposit will be required for all rental property.

For more information, please call the Richmond County Water Department at (910) 997-8258 or (910) 997-8202.

Quick Stats

- **1,432:** Number of calls from citizens requesting a Sheriff's deputy during the month of March.
- **3,000:** Number of visits and calls received last year by the Richmond County Veteran's Service Office. The Service Officer, who maintains a one-person department, helped an average of 12 veterans each day during the past year.
- **8,103:** Number of meals served from October to December of last year to seniors at Richmond County Aging Services' Meal Sites.
- **448:** Number of voters taking advantage of One-Stop Voting, as of April 23.

Don't Forget

- **ELECTION DAY:** The Primary Election is scheduled for Tuesday, May 6. Polls open at 6:30 a.m. and close at 7:30 p.m.
- **MEMORIAL DAY:** All Richmond County Government Offices will be closed on Monday, May 26, in observance of Memorial Day.

695

In 2007, the Department of Social Services conducted 695 investigations of Abuse and Neglect of children in Richmond County; 161 of those included reports of abuse. During the month of April, staff at DSS worked to raise awareness about abuse and neglect, as part of National Child Abuse Prevention Month.

FOLLOW THE ELECTION RESULTS ONLINE

Residents of Richmond County won't have to wait till Wednesday morning to find out the results of the May 6 Election.

Unofficial results will be posted on the County's Website, located at <http://richmondnc.com/elections/2008mayprimary.aspx>.

Election results will be updated live, as the precincts report to the Board of Elections Office.

Polls open at 6:30 a.m. on May 6, and close at 7:30 p.m. Voters registered as Democrat or Republican may vote their party's ballot. Unaffiliated voters may choose to participate in a party's primary or receive a nonpartisan ballot.

A number of people in Richmond County have taken advantage of One-Stop Absentee Voting, which will end on Saturday, May 3. Voters may cast their ballot early at the Board of Elections Office, located at 221 S. Hancock

St., Rockingham, Monday through Friday from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m., and on Saturday, May 3, from 8 a.m. to 1 p.m.

An additional One-Stop site, located at the Cole Auditorium on the campus of Richmond Community College, will be open for voting from 10 a.m. to 7 p.m. April 29 through May 2, and from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. on Saturday, May 3.

For more information, call the Board of Elections Office at (910) 997-8253.

RICHMOND COUNTY ROUND-UP

PAY LESS BY PAYING EARLY

The Board of Commissioners unanimously voted to allow for a 1 percent discount for early payment of property taxes.

Owners who pay their taxes during the month of August will get a discount for simply paying early. Discounts apply to property taxes due for the fiscal year beginning July 1, 2008. The discounts do not apply to motor vehicle taxes.

TURN IN THOSE CENSUS FORMS

By now, you should have received a questionnaire from the U.S. Census Bureau. Each household in the Fayetteville region, which includes Richmond County, will receive a three-page form asking for household information.

Richmond County has been given the opportunity to participate in the dress rehearsal for the Decennial Census.

"This will allow the county a chance to study advance counts in preparation for the 2010 Census and be more prepared to address any issues that may arise beforehand," said James Armstrong, director of Planning and GIS Services for

Richmond County Government.

"The dress rehearsal will also give us the opportunity to ensure that we get a complete canvas of all persons in the county and the region."

Information from the Census is also used to help communities get money for needed roads, schools, hospitals, and more. That's why returning the completed form is so important.

SPREADING THE WORD

The Department of Social Services strives to spread the word about programs offered to help families. Now, the staff has a new tool to do just that.

The Work First Family Assistance Program has a new Website—www.richmondcountyworkfirst.com.

The program emphasizes the importance of work and personal responsibility, while offering time-limited financial and employment-related resources to families.

To learn more about Work First and how to get involved, contact DSS at (910) 997-8480.

SUPPORTING SENIORS

Richmond County Aging Services is always trying to improve services offered to seniors.

Director Jacqueline Adkins stresses the importance of seniors speaking out about their likes and dislikes. She encourages seniors to get more involved in activities at the County's centers, and to also let the staff know about what services they could benefit from.

In order to better serve county residents, several Aging Services staff members attended special Arthritis Foundation training, in which they learned about an exercise program designed specifically for people with arthritis. Classes were offered throughout the month of April at both the Rockingham and East Rockingham Centers.

Citizens who missed the classes can still benefit by attending the Rockingham Center, which just received new exercise equipment.

For information on the centers, or to volunteer, contact Adkins at (910) 997-4491. Aging Services is a United Way Partner Agency.