

COUNTY CLIPS

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SENIOR CENTER EXTENDS HOURS

Busy seniors in Richmond County will have a little more time to utilize services available to them at the Senior Center in Rockingham.

Richmond County Aging Services recently extended its hours at the Rockingham Center in response to needs expressed by seniors.

Hours of operation are 7:30 a.m. to 6:30 p.m. Monday through Thursday, and 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. on Friday.

In order to address the needs of today's seniors,

Aging Services Director Jacqueline Adkins said it was necessary to be open to change.

"We extended our hours to accommodate seniors who work," Adkins said. "We're seeing an increase in the number of Baby Boomers we serve. These seniors are working more and remaining more active than seniors before them, so it has been important for us to be flexible and open to their suggestions."

In addition to meeting more seniors' needs, Adkins said the center is working toward certification at

the level of Merit or Excellence from the Division of Aging and Adult Services.

This simply represents the center's desire to provide exemplary services and additional opportunities for seniors in the county.

Richmond County Government assumed control of the Rockingham, East Rockingham and Ellerbe Senior Centers almost two years ago. Since becoming a county department, Aging Services' staff has worked diligently to strengthen services provided to seniors.

LAND PREPPED FOR CONSTRUCTION

Land is being prepared for the construction of the 310,000 square foot building that will serve as a distribution center in Richmond County Industrial Park.

Just this past spring, Board of Commissioners Chairman Kenneth Robinette announced the purchase of 30 acres of land by SRB Holdings.

Samet Construction is responsible for construction of the building, which is estimated to cost \$10 million.

The facility is expected to employ between 120 to 150 people to distribute recreational products.

"We are pleased that work has begun on this building. We look forward to the increased investment and job opportunities for our citizens," said Economic Developer Rick Sago.

For more than a year, Sago, along with Robinette and County Manager Jim Haynes, worked with executives of SRB Holdings on locating in Richmond County.

QUICK STATS

- **4,032:** Total number of immunizations given during the past year at the Richmond County Health Department. The majority of these included 1,968 flu vaccines.
- **1.1:** Tons of trash cleaned up during the month of August on 23 miles of roadway in Richmond County.
- **57:** Percentage of food service establishments in Richmond County that are smoke free. The Board of Health continues efforts to promote its Smoke Free Restaurant Initiative.
- **\$639,206:** Amount saved in 2007 by clients enrolled in the Pharmacy Assistance Program, which dispensed a total of 3,317 prescriptions to 161 clients. The program is operated by the Health Department through grant funds.
- **2,296:** Average number of clients served per month during the 2007-2008 fiscal year by staff in the WIC (Women, Infants and Children) Office. Broken down, the department served an average of 570 women; 1,118 children, and 608 infants per month.
- **392:** Number of restaurant, food stand and school lunchroom inspections conducted last year by Environmental Health staff.

109

Number of animal bites Richmond County Animal Control Officers responded to during the last fiscal year, which ended June 30. A total of 1,482 dogs and 400 cats were picked up by officers as well.

DON'T MISS DEADLINE TO REGISTER TO VOTE

Deadlines are everywhere. But if you miss this one, you may miss your chance to voice your vote on Nov. 4.

The last day to register for the General Election is Oct. 10.

If you won't be able to make it to the polls on Election Day, there are plenty of other opportunities for you to vote.

Absentee voting by mail

To request an absentee ballot by mail, you must send a handwritten or typed note to the local Board of Elections office requesting a ballot be mailed to you. In the request, include your full name, residence address, telephone number and address to which you wish to have the ballot mailed if different from your residence address.

Your personal signature is required when requesting a ballot by mail. Request forms are also available at the Board of Elections office, and can be mailed or completed in person.

To request a ballot for a near relative, include your full name, residence address, telephone number and address to which you wish to have the ballot mailed if different from your residence address. Your personal signature is required, along with your address and a statement of your relationship to the voter. Near relatives may include a spouse, parent, child, sibling, grandparent, grandchild, father/mother-in-law, son/daughter-in-law, step-parent or stepchild.

The deadline for requesting absentee ballots is Oct. 28.

Ballots must be received by the office no later than 5 p.m. Monday, Nov. 3.

The mailing address of the Board of Elections Office is PO Box 1843, Rockingham, NC 28380.

One-Stop Absentee Voting

There will be three early voting sites open during the election - the Board of Elections office in Rockingham; the Cole Auditorium in Hamlet, and Ellerbe Town Hall.

Voters can appear at the one-stop site, complete an application and vote all in one-stop.

For a complete schedule of early voting, visit the County's Website at www.richmondnc.com or call the Board of Elections office at 997-8253.

RICHMOND COUNTY ROUND-UP

SAVE TIME PAYING WATER BILL

Avoid waiting in line to pay your water bill by having it drafted from your checking account each month.

Customers who wish to take advantage of this convenience simply need to provide a voided check to Water Department staff, and sign a form authorizing this service.

Customers may also utilize the drop box located outside the Administrative Building. To use this service, please include the return portion of your bill in an envelope along with a check or money order.

The drop box can be used at any time, even during regular office hours.

DON'T MISS FALL BOOK SALE

Stock up on a variety of books at the Friends of Leath Memorial Library's Annual Book Sale, and support the li-

brary.

The sale, scheduled to begin at the library at 9 a.m. on Saturday, Oct. 18, will feature materials in all genres, from best-selling children's authors to classic novelists.

Proceeds from the sale benefit programs at the library, including the Children's Summer Reading Program.

For more information, call the library at 895-6337.

SENIOR FLU CLINIC DATES SET

Richmond County seniors will be able to receive their flu vaccines Oct. 6 through 9 at all four centers in the county.

To receive your vaccine at the senior center, you must have your Medicare card on hand. The vaccinations will be available only to seniors over the age of 62 with Medicare. All other seniors may receive their vaccines directly at

the Health Department.

Clinic dates are as follows:

- Monday, Oct. 6 at the East Rockingham Senior Center;
- Tuesday, Oct. 7 at the Ellerbe Senior Center;
- Wednesday, Oct. 8 at the Rockingham Senior Center, and
- Thursday, Oct. 9 at the Hamlet Senior Center.

All clinics begin at 9 a.m. For more information, contact your local center or call 997-4491.

CALLING ALL VOLUNTEERS

Volunteers and sponsors are needed for the Annual Senior Christmas Parties sponsored by Aging Services. Three parties are scheduled for Tuesday and Wednesday, Dec. 9 and 10.

To help, call the Rockingham Senior Center at 997-4491.