

# COUNTY CLIPS

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## SENIORS TO CELEBRATE THE SEASON

It's a time to fellowship with friends and celebrate the Christmas season. And many seniors in Richmond County look forward to the date for weeks.

Preparing for three parties and serving close to 2,000 people is no easy task for Richmond County Aging Services. But with the help of volunteers and a few generous sponsors, seniors in Richmond County will be entertained and pampered for a few hours this holiday season.

On Tuesday, Dec. 9 and Wednesday, Dec. 10, seniors over the age of 60 will have the chance to attend one of three Christmas parties held at Browder Park in Rockingham.

Thanks to a \$7,000 grant from Richmond Community Foundation, and donations from local businesses, every senior who

attends the party will receive a bag of fruit and healthy snacks.

"The parties are open to any Richmond County resident, age 60 or better, regardless of need," said Aging Services Director Jacqueline Adkins.

Seniors may pick up their tickets at their local senior center.

In an effort to provide seniors with information they can use, local businesses and non-profit organizations have been asked to set up booths during the event to inform seniors about the services offered specifically for them.

There will also be entertainment during the event, as well as door prizes.

For more information on the 30th Annual event, contact Adkins at 997-4491.

## WORK WRAPS UP ON WATER PROJECT

Work is winding down on the Southeast Water Expansion Project.

Water lines have been installed and are ready for use on Old Gibson Road, McGirt Road, Oak Ridge Church Road and Grace Chapel Church Road. These roads are in addition to the lines already completed and in use, which include the following: Ghio Road, Hwy. 38, Springhill Church Road and Hwy. 381.

Richmond County Water personnel have installed approximately 18 miles of new water lines in the

southeast portion of Richmond County.

These lines have been installed with the assistance of a grant from the Environmental Protection Agency.

Please contact the Richmond County Water Department at 997-8201 or 997-8202 for information on how to apply for a tap into the system.

The current tap fee for a 3/4 inch meter is \$500. Residents wishing to connect will need to bring a copy of their deed when applying for a new tap.

Customers are responsible for the installation of the service line, which extends from the meter to the resident's home.

Landowners within the area with existing homes will have one year to hook up to county water for the standard tap fee. After the one-year period, an additional \$1,000 fee will be added to the tap fee.

The additional fee only applies to existing homes. All new homes will only be required to pay the tap fee that is applicable at the time they apply for a new tap.

## QUICK STATS

- **\$1,228:** Amount of money raised in just two weeks by members of the newly formed Richmond County Chapter of the N.C. Social Services Association, which consists of a number of social workers and other DSS employees. All funds raised benefit local children through the Toys for Toys program.
- **131:** Percentage increase in the number of program participants at Richmond County libraries in the past year. The number of people attending programs offered at the libraries increased from 4,852 to 11,203.
- **1,475:** Number of calls from citizens requesting a deputy during the month of October. The Sheriff's Office served 298 criminal papers, 345 civil papers and 12 domestic violence orders during the month.

## HOLIDAY CLOSINGS

Richmond County Government offices will be closed in observance of the following holidays.

- **Christmas:** Wednesday, Dec. 24; Thursday, Dec. 25, and Friday, Dec. 26
- **New Year's Day:** Thursday, Jan. 1

# PROPERTY TAX LISTING 2009 PLEASE READ CAREFULLY 2009

On or about Jan. 2, 2009, all owners of PERSONAL PROPERTY, who listed in 2008 in Richmond County will receive a PERSONAL PROPERTY LISTING FORM in the mail. Any person who purchased personal property in 2008 that is required by law to be listed 2009 and did not receive a listing form should contact the Tax Assessor's Office or come to the Richmond County Courthouse where Tax Listers will assist you.

1. You will NOT be required to list REAL PROPERTY (house, land, building, etc.)
2. You will continue to list all improvements or changes to Real Estate.
3. You will continue to list mobile homes, boats and motors, jet skis and aircraft. Any automobiles, trucks, trailers, campers and motorcycles that do not have an ACTIVE TAG must be listed.
4. Any business not receiving a Business Personal Property Form should contact the Richmond County Tax Assessor's Office to avoid listing penalty.
5. If you need help with your listing or if you have questions, please come to the Richmond County Courthouse from 8 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Monday through Friday, excluding the Jan. 19 holiday observance.

## **PROPERTY TAX RELIEF FOR ELDERLY AND PERMANENTLY DISABLED PERSONS**

N.C. General Statute 105-277.1 EXCLUDES from property taxes the greater - \$20,000 or 50 percent of the assessed value of CERTAIN PROPERTY - owned by North Carolina residents, who are AGE 65 OR OLDER OR TOTALLY AND PERMANENTLY DISABLED WHOSE INCOME DOES NOT EXCEED \$25,600. The exclusion covers REAL property occupied by the owner at his or her permanent residence. Disposable income includes all monies received other than gifts or inheritances received from a spouse, lineal ancestors or lineal descendants. FILE FOR THIS EXEMPTION DURING LISTING PERIOD.

## **NEW FOR 2009 - CIRCUIT BREAKER**

A qualifying owner must be 65 years old on Jan. 1; must own and reside at the property for five years, and earn less than \$38,400 for 2008. A portion of the taxes are deferred - NOT excluded. When the property becomes ineligible for the deferment, THREE years of the deferred taxes plus accumulated interest will become due. Owner must apply and provide proof of income each year.

Application for honorably discharged disabled veterans or unmarried surviving spouse may be obtained in the Tax Assessor's Office. You will need to call 910-410-1105 for further information concerning these exceptions.

## **THE DEADLINE TO FILE THESE EXEMPTIONS IS JUNE 1.**

If your property meets the requirements for farm use value and you want to apply, please contact the county tax office during the listing period for information of the use value and to request an application.

**LISTING PERIOD: JANUARY 2 - JANUARY 31, 2009**  
**E.L. "Butch" Greene, Richmond County Tax Administrator**  
**114 East Franklin Street, Room 107, Rockingham, NC 28379**  
**Phone: 910-997-9824**