

# Hoke County

# Newsletter

Welcome to the Hoke County Newsletter. Inside you'll find information of what's going on inside Hoke County.

If you have any questions, comments, or concerns, please email

Newsletter @hokecounty.org

We're on the web! www.hokecounty.net

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## Centennial Success

Hoke County hosted their 100-Year Celebration from April 1 - April 16. Many activities were held for the citizens of Hoke County. A carnival was brought to the County for a few days of rides, games, and family enjoyment.

The "Music Man" play was presented on Friday and Saturday, April 1, 2, 8 and 9 at the J. W. Turlington School. Everyone did a wonderful job, and the community really enjoyed it!

A centennial parade was held on Saturday, April 2 at 10:00 a.m. with featured entries including time periods from 1911 - 2011. The Grand Marshals were three of Hoke County's oldest residents. The floats were absolutely beautiful.

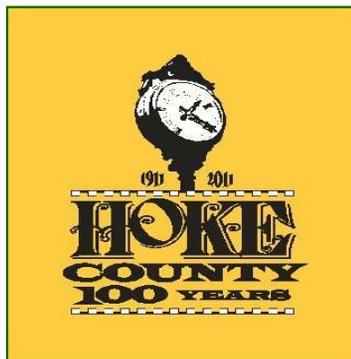
"Family Fun Night" was hosted on Friday, April 15. There was a beard contest for the gentlemen, and a costume contest for the ladies. This night of fun included a band, inflatables and games for children and adults. The evening concluded with a huge fireworks display.

On Sunday, April 10th the Raeford-Hoke Museum held an event with "old fashion"

singing, carriage rides, a band, and the dedication of the new Raeford-Hoke Museum Emergency Service Museum.

The Hoke County schools were involved in Essay contests by 4th graders, centennial posters for advertising by the middle schools and T-shirt designs by the high school students.

The closing events were held on Saturday, April 16. The official Hoke County Time Capsule was buried at the Hoke County Courthouse at 2:00 p.m. The dinner, with guest speakers, entertainment, and a PowerPoint presentation of our 100 years, was held later that Saturday night at 6:00 p.m. at the Raeford Presbyterian Church.



## Thank You to the Centennial Committee For Your Hard Work and Dedication!



# DSS: Reaching Excellence & Accountability in Practice

Hoke County DSS is one of 8 counties across the state piloting a new model for evaluating and improving child welfare outcomes in our community; Reaching Excellence and Accountability in Practice (REAP). This model is focused on engaging our community partners in improving safety, permanency and well-being for children and families. Our community shares responsibility for helping at-risk families; shared solutions are the most likely to be successful.

Our REAP journey began in February 2011. Our pilot ends later this year, and once we (the 8 pilot counties, the Division of Social Services, and our federal partners) have worked the kinks out, REAP will eventually go statewide to all 100 counties. Hoke

DSS takes great pride in being accepted as one of the eight pilot counties for REAP; we look forward to giving our ideas/suggestions as we travel on this journey so that counties that follow will have a better understanding of how to go about this process. Our dedicated child welfare staff is always looking for new and better ways to serve our children and families; with REAP, we hope to identify new strate-

gies to improve child welfare services in our community.

This model builds on the Multiple Response System, and challenges our staff, external partners, and the families we serve to continually evaluate the effectiveness of our work together. We are currently assessing our performance in certain key child welfare achievement areas with the help of internal and external partners in the community. We will then develop an achieve-

ment plan based on our identified strengths and needs. This process is also helping us (and our partners) to better understand our child welfare data and the story behind the data.

We are focused on outcomes in child welfare. We want the children and families in our community to be safe; we want their well-being needs met; we want children to achieve permanence versus growing up in foster care. Hoke County DSS meets many of the federal child welfare outcomes, but not all. We hope that by engaging our community stakeholders, we can develop a plan to achieve better outcomes for our children and families by working smarter with the resources currently available in our community.

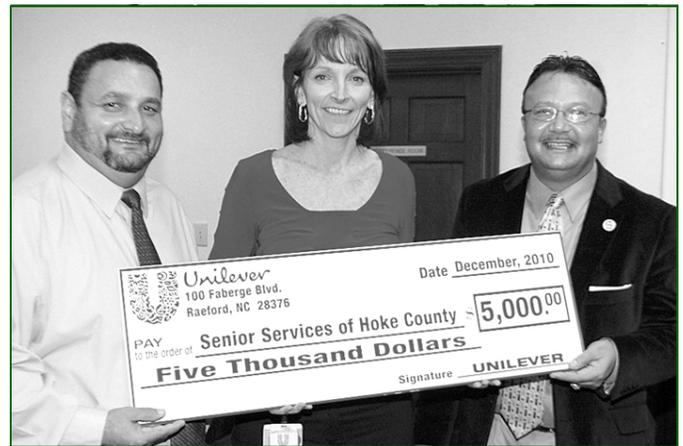


## DSS Employee of the Year



Hoke County employee, Sheila Campbell, was named the Department of Social Services Employee of the Year. Many thanks to Sheila for her hard work and dedication. (Photo courtesy of the News-Journal)

## Wheelchair Ramps



Unilever plant manager Georgia Szewczak presents a \$5,000 grant to Hoke County Senior Services director Don Woods and Board of Commissioners Chairman Tony Hunt. The grant will go towards providing county senior citizens with wheelchair ramps. (Courtesy of the News-Journal)

## Mother's Day 2011

On Saturday May 7 the Hoke County Parks and Recreation Department hosted a Mothers Day Event for the Senior Citizens of Hoke County. The event was attended by about 80 mothers of all ages from 55 to 91. Everyone enjoyed a catered meal, was entertained by the Senior Voices of Hoke and Commissioner Ellen McNeill was the guest speaker. The Senior Voices of Hoke sang 2 songs and 1 of the selections they performed at the senior games competition in Lumberton last week. They finished 2<sup>nd</sup> in their competition. Commissioner McNeill spoke about her life as a child growing up and the



influence her mother had on her life. She also talked about the importance today's mothers play in the rearing of our younger generations and proposed a challenge. She

challenged all mothers "to pass it on." To pass on to all mothers the knowledge they have about rearing a child, making the sacrifices required to be a wife and set an

example for all mothers of the future. The event was coordinated by Ms. Patricia Graham, the senior citizens activity director and assisted by Mrs. Jacquelyn Lowery, special events coordinator both of the Hoke County Parks and Recreation Department. I wish to thank both of these ladies for a job well done and all of the volunteers that helped make the event a success. I also want to thank Commissioner McNeill for taking time out of her busy schedule to address this group of beautiful Hoke County women. May god bless of the mothers and allow them many more Mothers Days in the future.

## Spring Sports Update

The recreation baseball and softball leagues have kicked off the 2011 season. The season was scheduled to start with a 'grand opening' on April 16 at the Raz Autry Football Stadium.

However, the newscasters and the Emergency Management of Hoke County predicted the weather was not going to cooperate. Cautiously we cancelled the opening ceremony in the interest of safety of our participants and parents. The predicted storms caused millions of dollars of damages and killed many people in its track as it headed to North Carolina. The storms did not get here as early as expected but they did arrive with the anticipated force and damage left behind. The decision to cancel was difficult because acts of nature can not be predicted to a

100% degree of accuracy, but we made a decision to protect the youth and not be in an open area in a dangerous situation. As it turned out the storm lived up to its reputation and fortunately Hoke County dodged the majority of storm.

Once we started on April 18 we had filled over 900 uni-

forms with boys and girls from ages 5 – 16. This is a record number of baseball and softball players ever registered for the spring season.

We have 26 t-ball, 10 Dixie Youth AA (coach pitch boys), 6 Dixie Youth AAA (9-10 years old boys), 6 Dixie Youth Major League (11-12

years old boys), 5 Dixie Darling (coach pitch girls), 4 Dixie Angels (9-10 years old girls), 4 Dixie Ponytails (11-12 years old girls), 1 Jr. Babe Ruth (13-14 years old), 1 Babe Ruth (15-16 years old) and 1 Jr. Girls softball team (13-15 years old).

The number of teams has caused us to outgrow the new 211 Recreation Complex and we continue to use Burlington Park and the Old Armory Park also. Where and when the growth will stop or level off, we do not know. We will continue to try to meet the demands and needs as they arise. Is there really such thing as too much growth? What a problem to have!





# Hoke County Public Library 2011 Summer Reading Program **ONE WORLD, MANY STORIES**

Tuesdays & Thursdays / June 7—August 9, 2011  
(\**NO* programs the week of July 4-9\*)

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**Preschool Program**

Ages 0-5  
Tuesdays 10:00-11:00am

**School Age Program**

Grades K-5  
Tuesdays 3:00-5:00pm

**Youth Program**

Grades 6-12  
Thursdays 3:00—5:00pm

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**BON VOYAGE AMERICA – Tue., June 7 & Thu., June 9**

**PIRATES OF THE CARIBBEAN – Tue., June 14 & Thu., June 16**

**AFRICAN TRICKSTERS – Tue., June 21 & Thu., June 23**

**MEDITERRANEAN ODYSSEY – Tue., June 28 & Thu., June 30**

**BRITISH ISLES, MAGICAL MISTS – Tue., July 12 & Thu., July 14**

**ARABIAN NIGHTS – Tue., July 19 & Thu., July 21**

**ORIENT EXPRESS – Tue., July 26 & Thu., July 28**

**POLYNESIAN PARADISE – Tue., August 2 & Thu., August 4**

**AUSTRALIAN WRAP-UP RACE – Tues., August 9**

**\*\*FOR ALL AGES!!\*\***

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**Hoke County Public Library  
334 N. Main Street—Raeford, NC 28376  
(910) 875-2502 / [www.srls.info](http://www.srls.info)**