



Randolph County Government



County e-News

How is County Money Spent and Where Does It Come From?

Second Quarter 2009

Volume 1; Issue 2

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*By Will Massie, CPA
Asst. County Manager / Finance Officer*

Everyone likes to complain about taxes; it is an American right dating back to before the Revolution. However, it has been said that taxes are the price we pay to have an orderly society. While not all taxpayers use all government services, the County is mandated to provide nearly all services represented in our annual budget. Services that aren't required, like ambulance services, are critical.

Randolph County complies with the Local Government Budget and Fiscal Control Act and other North Carolina General Statutes, and federal laws and regulations, which promote conservative fiscal practices. One of these state requirements is for local governments to operate under a balanced budget. The Board of Commissioners has the final word on the annual budget, which must be adopted before the beginning of the new fiscal year. To develop an effective financial plan for the upcoming year, the County must estimate the revenues that will be available in the budget. This article summarizes the primary financial resources available for use by counties during the year.

erate sources of revenue through user fees or grant assistance. These revenues represent a significant resource to pay for services. The departmental budgets reflect these program-generated resources and how much they pay for service costs. However, some of these program revenues are not controlled by the County, such as the level of available state and federal grants. The most important of these are described below:

Restricted Intergovernmental - Federal and state financial assistance is often provided to local governments for restricted purposes. Often, these funds help cover costs associated with mandated services, such as health and social service assistance programs. Grant revenues have remained nearly the same over the past few years.

Permits and Fees - Certain services are provided due to regulatory requirements. The person being regulated is generally required to reimburse the government through a permit fee or license. Sometimes the fee is set by or is limited by statute. These fees may be used for any public purpose, although they are intended to fund the cost of regulation and are budgeted as program revenue for the applicable department. Building inspection permits, Regis-



Program Revenues

Many County departments are able to gen-

ter of Deeds fees for land transfers, and other permit revenues have decreased during the past year of economic instability, and limited revenues are expected as long as the housing slump continues.

Sales and Services - Certain services are provided to citizens, other agencies, or businesses upon request. The related costs can be substantially recovered by user fees, thus charging the cost to the parties which benefit from the service. The North Carolina General Statutes authorize a local governmental unit to engage in and charge for various activities. Subject to these statutes, any service that can be divisible into units and is delivered to an identifiable user may be appropriate for user fee financing. Randolph County receives reimbursements for inmate housing and school resource officers, charges for ambulance billings, solid waste tipping fees, and collections of patient fees from health services.

General County Revenues

There are many sources of revenue available to the County which are not directly related to specific programs or departments. We refer to these as General County Revenues, which can be used for any public purpose authorized by the Board of County Commissioners. These funds represent the majority of the revenue resources available to the County. Some of these revenues are determined by the County; others are merely collections, outside of the County's ability to control. Regardless, they are critical in providing the funds necessary for the County to meet its responsibilities to its citizens. The primary General County Revenues are described below.

Ad Valorem Property Taxes – The County’s primary revenue is a tax levied on real and personal property (including motor vehicles) which is not specifically exempted by statute. The total value of all such taxable property becomes the tax base. This tax is the largest revenue in the budget and provides the greatest flexibility in meeting the financial needs of the County. The County Commissioners set a tax rate per \$100 of valuation; the adopted 2008-09 property tax rate is 55.5¢ per \$100. This tax rate is usually the last revenue issue to be decided; it reflects the Board’s spending priorities and the public’s need for services. Randolph County has traditionally maintained a low property tax rate, attempting to keep our citizens' property tax burden low.

Comparison of Tax Rates with Neighboring Counties
2008-2009 Tax Rate per \$100 Valuation

	County-wide Rate	State-wide Rank*
Guilford	\$0.7374	70
Rockingham	\$0.7050	65
Forsyth	\$0.6960	60
Stanly	\$0.6700	57
Chatham	\$0.6350	52
Montgomery	\$0.5800	39
Alamance	\$0.5800	39
Randolph	\$0.5550	34
Davidson	\$0.5400	31
Moore	\$0.4790	19
Regional Average	\$0.6247	
Statewide Average	\$0.6325	

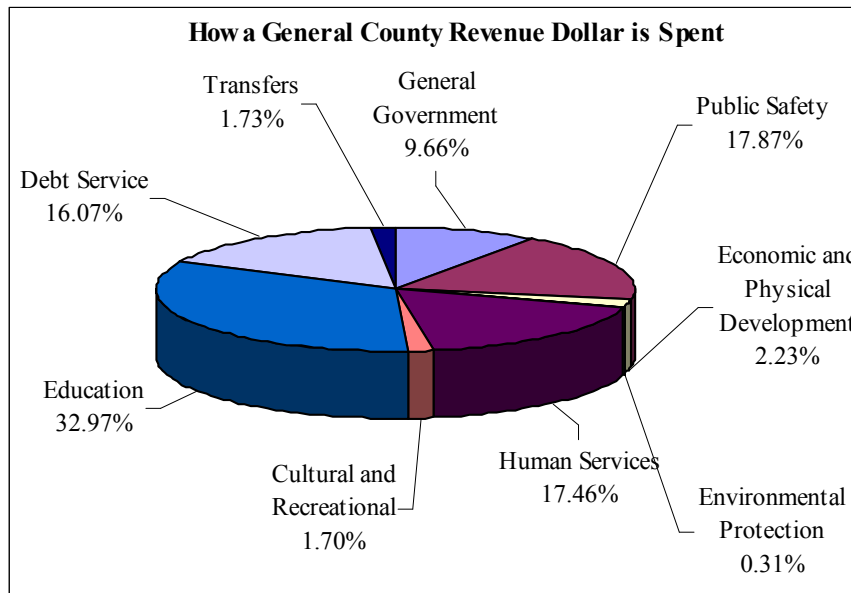
* Current rank from lowest tax rate out of NC's 100 counties

Ad valorem property tax collections are also collected in nineteen fire districts and two special school districts. These collections are restricted for use for fire protection or supplemental school operating costs within the respective districts.

Local Option Sales Taxes – The second largest revenue is proceeds from the local portion of the tax on retail sales.

Merchants collect state and local sales taxes and remit the total amount to the state. The local sales tax portion is distributed to local governments monthly. Currently, the County receives 2.25% on retail sales transactions. On October 1, 2009, the rate will reduce to 2.0%. Most of the tax is unrestricted; however, a portion of the taxes are restricted for school construction or debt service on obligations related to school construction. The remainder is available for unrestricted purposes. Sales taxes are another revenue source that fluctuates during economic cycles. It will be increasingly important for our citizens to make their purchases in Randolph County so that the sales tax remains here for use.

The following graph shows where these General Revenues are utilized in the 2008-09 budget.



Fund Balances

Cash balances are maintained in all funds as reserves for emergencies, to provide resources during periods when disbursements exceed cash deposits, to provide flexibility in financing nonrecurring capital or operating costs, to satisfy bond rating agencies, and to generate investment earnings. Occasionally, fund balances may be appropriated in the budget to supplement current revenues in order to cover anticipated expenditures. Usually those expenditures are non-recurring, such as capital items or economic development incentives. However, due to the current decline in economically based revenues, a portion of our reserves may be needed to make up the shortfall for next year. Many governments have gotten into financial difficulty by relying on fund balance for too long; use of savings is not sustainable for recurring operations.

Note: To view the current fiscal year budget document, click here: <http://www.co.randolph.nc.us/finance/budget/Default.htm>

Traveling Around Randolph



Poole Rd, Archdale—CLOSED (with multiple detours) for construction of a new bridge for I-74 / US 311 overpass. (6/16/2008—6/01/2009)

Henley Country Rd., near Randolph Tabernacle Rd.—Asheboro—CLOSED with detour. Bridge replacement. (9/22/2008—5/15/2009)

Surrett Dr., near Eden Ter.—Archdale—CLOSED with detour due to widening road and raising rail-road tracks. (8/07/2008—5/15/2009)



Traveling continued...



Riverside Rd., between Bennett Rd. and Erect Rd. — CLOSED with detour for bridge replacement. (03/02/2009—11/15/2009)

Burney Rd., between US Hwy 220 Bypass & King View Rd., Seagrove —CLOSED with detour for bridge repairs. (05/04/2009—05/08/2009)



“There’s nothing like a mama-hug.”
~Adabella Radici

County Roads???

There are no county roads anymore. They are either private, municipally-maintained or state-maintained. NC Dept. of Transportation has a priority list for road paving. Call NCDOT at 629-1423 to see where your road is on that list. They can also explain to you the system they have in place for determining how unpaved roads

are prioritized.

Randolph County takes care of all road signs in the County. Call 318-6905 if you see a downed or missing sign. The only responsibility the County Commissioners have in the road paving process is to hold an annual public hearing at one of their regular meetings to grant approval of the secondary roads improvement program. That meeting is usually held in late



spring or early summer. The notice

of public hearing will be published in the legal section of the Courier-Tribune. However, due to the State’s budget crisis, there will be no funds for new paving projects in the 09-10 budget.

Safety and Training Officer Recognized

At the North Carolina Association of County Commissioners regional meeting held on March 19, Ron Williams, Director of Safety and Training,



was presented with an Award of Excellence for his outstanding Workers’ Compensation claim reporting practices from the NCACC Risk Management Pools. For period ending 12/31/2008, Randolph County reported all claims with an average lag time of 0.19 days. Lag time is calculated from the time the event is reported internally to the time it is reported to the claims administrator. Experience shows the cost of claims escalates as reporting time increases. If a claim is reported 7-14 days after the event, it is 18% more expensive than if it was reported within the first five days, 30% more expensive if reported within 15-28 days, and 45% more expensive if reported after the 29th day. Ron was also recognized at the Commissioners meeting on April 6.

"Connections"

Written by Christina L. Sterling,
Foster Home Licensing SW II,
Dept. of Social Services

Everyone knows how important personal connections are to have with your family, friends, old classmates; you get the picture. Children in foster care don't always get to maintain the connections that they have made. It was just recently that I attended a Permanency Plan Action Team Meeting here at the agency. These meetings are where community and agency members join with the family to discuss the progress of a case and the plan for a child when they have come into custody. While I was there, a school social worker (we'll call her Jill) advised that she was working with a young man who was graduating this year from high school. She said that he had told her he had been a foster child when he was very young for a short time, but he couldn't remember who he was placed with. Jill said that he wanted to get in touch with them because they had been so kind to him. She asked if there was any way we could get that information for him. The supervisor present referred her to me, since I work directly with the foster families here at our agency. When she told me his name (we'll call him Freddie Jones to protect his confidentiality), I couldn't believe it. *It's funny how you don't think about things until you hear a certain word or name and then suddenly, it's like a movie reel right there in front of you.*

I told her that I was the Child Protective Services social worker who

had taken Freddie and his siblings into custody July 21st, nine years ago, which is my birthday. He was such an awesome kid back then, very engaging. He and his siblings came into care, not because of any kind of intentional maltreatment, but because a situation arose from a family need, and they were not aware of the resources available to them. I told her that I was pretty sure who he had been placed with, but would double check and let her know before she left. I went to the file room and pulled the old record. Freddie and his siblings were adorable, smiling in pictures that I had taken of them. He was placed with the family that I had remembered. The family (we'll call them the Greens) who had cared for him was no longer licensed, but I knew that they would love to hear from him because they had asked about him in the years after his placement to see how he was doing. They were very fond of him. I was unable to locate a telephone number, but did get their address. I returned to the meeting and provided the information I had to Jill, and advised her that I was sure that they would love to hear from him. I told her that I would keep searching for a telephone number for them, and if I found it, would get that to her. It was very moving to know that this young man was that touched by a family that he had been with for only a few weeks when he was so young.

After a few days of unsuccessfully trying to locate a phone number, I decided to write the foster family a letter when I realized that

we had an active foster family that lived only a few miles from the Greens, and they were due for a home visit. So, I set about to visit the active family and then drove by the Greens' home. I had a note prepared just in case no one was home, but Mrs. Green was there, and she remembered me. I told her that a child that they had provided care for wanted to get in touch with them and had asked that I get their phone number for him. Mrs. Green asked me who the child was, and when I told her it was Freddie, I may as well have been Ed McMahon with a million dollar check. She squealed and jumped up and down. She was so excited and asked how he was. I gave her an abbreviated update and asked for their new phone number. She eagerly gave it to me and told me that she could not wait to hear from him. When I returned to the office, I called Jill, the school social worker, and gave it to her and told her how eager the Greens were to hear from him. She has since given the number to him and they have reconnected. So, I guess the thing to remember is you never know who or how you will influence someone.



If you are interested in being a Foster Parent call 336-683-8038.

Randolph Arts Guild

The Randolph Arts Guild is a multi-action, multicultural nonprofit organization dedicated to providing the citizens of Randolph County with the means to express themselves through the Visual, Literary, and Performing Arts.

What are you interested in? Are you a hobbyist? A professional? Do you just want to find out if you want to find out more? Would you rather work backstage than be in a starring role? Do you want to improve your skills you already possess? Do you just want to be in the audience? The Randolph Arts Guild has something for you: opportunities, recognition, support, guidance.

They are supported by membership dues, shop sales, fund raisers, allocations from the City of Asheboro and the County of Randolph, Grassroots Grants funds from the North Carolina Arts Council, a generous business community, and a corps of stalwart volunteers.



RSVP Community Theatre's *remaining 2009 schedule:*

Annie: July 24, 25, 26, 31; August 1 & 2
(Auditions May 16 & 18)

Man of La Mancha: November 5 - 8

Annie, will be produced at the Asheboro High School Performing Arts Center and *Man of La Mancha* will be produced at the Historic Sunset Theatre in Downtown Asheboro

If you have questions contact us at 336-629-0399 or arts@asheboro.com.



2nd Annual Emergency Services Softball Tournament

Friday, May 8th 6:30, 7:30 and 8:30 p.m. & Saturday, May 9th starting at 8:00 a.m.

Asheboro City Fields
(End of Farr & Pritchard Street)

No Fee for Spectators

Hot Dogs, Hamburgers and other concessions available both days and proceeds benefit

Operation Red Sleigh, Inc.



Online Library E-newsletters: <http://www.randolphlibrary.org/news.htm>

NEW SUMMER BOOKS AT THE RANDOLPH COUNTY LIBRARY

Fiction:

First Family, David Baldacci

The Trail of the Wild Rose: An English Garden Mystery, Anthony Eglin

Summer on Blossom Street, Debbie Macomber

All the Living: A Novel, C.E. Morgan

The Forgotten Garden: A Novel, Kate Morton

The 8th Confession, James Patterson

Matters of the Heart, Danielle Steel

A Mad Desire to Dance, Elie Wiesel and Catherine Temerson

How Sweet It Is, Alice J. Wisler

Non-Fiction:

A Lion Called Christian: The True Story of the Remarkable Bond Between Two Friends and a Lion, Anthony Bourke and John Rendall

House of Cards: A Tale of Hubris and Wretched Excess on Wall Street, William D. Cohan

Columbine, Dave Cullen

Vicksburg, 1863, Winston Groom

Growing Up Again: Life, Loves, and Oh Yeah, Diabetes, Mary Tyler Moore

The First Tycoon: The Epic Life of Cornelius Vanderbilt, T.J. Stiles

Large-Print:

The Lost Quilter: An Elm Creek Quilts Novel, Jennifer Chiaverini

The Secret, Beverly Lewis

Randolph County Public Libraries

Asheboro Phone (336) 318-6800

Archdale Phone (336) 431-3811

Franklinville Phone: 336.824.4020

Liberty Phone (336) 622-4605

Ramseur Phone (336) 824-2232

Randleman Phone (336)498-3141

Seagrove Phone (336) 873-7521

Making a Change



Randolph County Day Reporting Center

The purpose of the Day Reporting Center (DRC) is to provide the Courts with a concentrated, one-stop point of entry for offenders sentenced to Intermediate Sanctions under the Structured Sentencing Law. It offers programs to control and manage offenders in the community by providing appropriate discipline and victim restitution, as well as rehabilitation, employment and educational opportunities for defendants. The DRC proudly serves the communities of Randolph and Montgomery Counties.

Offenders who complete a well-structured community-based Criminal Justice Partnership Program like the Day Reporting Center are 53% less likely to have their probation revoked compared to offenders not placed in such a program, according to a study recently completed by the N.C. Department of Correction's Re-

search and Planning Office.

In 2005, Ted Trogdon was convicted of a felony possession charge and was sentenced to the RCDRC plus intensive probation. Ted stated, "I was 51 years old and had been using drugs for 30 of those 51 years." He was required to complete a substance abuse assessment at the RCDRC as part of his needs assessment. He was required to attend intensive outpatient substance abuse treatment on-site at the RCDRC three times weekly. He said, "I still didn't think I had a problem. I wasn't real happy to be made to do all of this stuff they were requiring me to do but would rather be there than locked up. If I had gone back to jail, I would have came out the same way I went in. It was nice to just have a little freedom and not be locked down in Randolph County jail. I knew I would probably have

to go to a 28-day treatment program. I was resistant and wanted to try to do it my way if I could. I started my intensive treatment classes three times weekly with the RCDRC, but I could not hold a job. I would always get fired. I would get paid and blow my money on drugs. I would blow my whole pay check! I was still lying, stealing, trying to convince myself that things were still alright. I realized things were not getting any better.. I had to make a change. On Thanksgiving day, I came to realization. The pain didn't go away. I had had enough, no more! I was given a second chance at the RCDRC to try treatment one more time. They didn't give up on me. The things I was shown, what addiction really is, how it affects your mind, brought me back to reality. I really started learning things towards my addiction."

After 16 months at the RCDRC, Ted suc-

cessfully completed substance abuse treatment and received his certificate. He now works full-time at Brooks Mill and part-time at the Mangum House, a men's halfway house for recovering addicts. Mr. Trogdon said, "I'm finally rooted in a foundation by helping others as I was helped. It gives you a good feeling to see someone actually grab a hold of it. It is frustrating when they don't. If it had not been for me getting the opportunity to go to the RCDRC, I would not have received the treatment I needed and probably would not be here, but probably still in jail or dead. Before treatment, getting high used to come before anything else. I am now active in going to NA meetings about every day of the week. This helps me to keep what I have gotten instilled in me from the RCDRC. I no longer intentionally hurt people: I want to help them and give back."

Way to go, Ted!!!

News From Sandhills Center

Sandhills Center is a toll free call across eight counties.

Whether a person has a question about mental health or needs immediate help, Sandhills Center is making it even easier to get professional assistance.

According to Michael Watson, Chief Executive Officer of Sandhills Center, calls to 1-800-256-2452 are answered by licensed clinician's 24-hours-per-day, 365 days per year.

"We serve residents of eight counties," Watson said,

"Sandhills Center is a good place to start when anyone has questions about mental health, developmental disabilities, or substance abuse,..."

"and in the past we had ten separate numbers for people who needed to reach us.

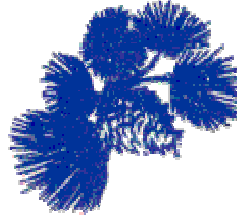
Sandhills Center is a "Local Management Entity" (LME) of the NC Department of Health and Human Services in matters related to mental health, developmental disabilities and substance abuse. It offers professional assessments and referrals to providers of services for residents of eight counties: Anson, Harnett, Hoke, Lee, Montgomery, Moore, Richmond and Randolph.

"We treat each caller with courtesy, respect and confidentiality," Watson said. "Within our service area we are responsible for assessing public needs and contracting with private companies to provide services in the areas of mental health, developmental disabilities and substance abuse." He said there is no charge for speaking with licensed clinicians at Sandhills Center including the making of appointments with providers of services. "Subsequent charges by provid-

ers often can be covered by Medicare, Medicaid or by funds made available to Sandhills Center by the State of North Carolina," he added.

Watson said that Sandhills Center has contractual relationships with providers of a wide variety of services. He said they include such specialties as psychiatry, medication management, addiction recovery, detoxification, supported employment, caregiver training, behavioral counseling, crisis management, and much more.

"Sandhills Center is a good place to start when anyone has questions about mental health, developmental disabilities, or substance abuse," Watson added. "We hope they will call us at 1-800-256-2452, and we will do our best to answer their questions and connect them with a provider of professional services to meet their need."



"By the time a man realizes that maybe his father was right, he usually has a son who thinks he's wrong."
— Charles Wadsworth

NORTH CAROLINA COOPERATIVE EXTENSION

Grandparents Raising Grandchildren/Kinship Care “The Second Time Around”

A six part series designed to provide grandparents with the tools they need to meet the challenges of parenting the second time around.

2009 Dates:

Wednesday, May 6

Thursday, May 7

Wednesday, May 13

Thursday, May 14

Wednesday, May 20

Thursday, May 21

Time: 6:00—8:00 p.m.



NC Cooperative Extension
Randolph County Center
112 W. Walker Ave.
Asheboro, NC 27203

Phone: Asheboro, 318-6000
Liberty: 218-4000



Grandparents Topics

- Navigating the System
- Understanding Behavior
- Get the Best of Stress
- Understanding Relationships and Your New Role

Youth Topics

- Improving Self-Esteem
- Getting Along with Siblings
- Appreciating Others
- Having Fun
- Homework Assistance

To register or for more information, call 318-6000

FREE OF CHARGE

A light supper will be provided each evening.

Youth Program—ages 5 and up.

Childcare provided for children under 4 years.

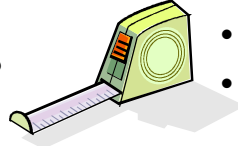


North Carolina Family Caregiver Support Program
Completing the Care

North Carolina State University & North Carolina A&T University commit themselves to positive action to secure equal opportunity regardless of race, color, creed, national, origin, religion, sex, age or disability. In addition, the two Universities welcome all persons without regard to sexual orientation. North Carolina State University & North Carolina A&T University, U.S. Department of Agriculture

If special accommodations are required, please notify the Extension Office in advance.

When Do You Need a Permit?



North Carolina statutes require a permit for the following activities:

- (1) The construction, reconstruction, alteration, repair, movement to another site, removal, or demolition of any building;
- (2) The installation, extension, or general repair of any plumbing system;
- (3) The installation, extension, alteration, or general repair of any heating or cooling equipment system; or
- (4) The installation, extension, alteration, or general repair of any electrical wiring, devices, appliances, or equipment

Exceptions:

- (a) Agricultural Buildings (will need to complete a farm exemption form)
- (b) Nonstructural projects less than \$5000
- (c) Residential storage building with no dimension greater than 12 feet.
- (d) Replacement of the same type & grade of roofing.

Note: Building Permits may require a County or Municipal Zoning Permit to be issued.

Examples of Work not requiring Permits:

- Building or moving a 10 x 10 residential storage building
- Replacement of roofing if it is the same type and the cost is less than \$5000
- Installing or replacing vinyl siding if the cost is less than \$5000
- Window replacements if the cost is less than \$5000
- Replacement of fuses and light bulbs
- Repairing cord-connected equipment such as lamps, washers, dryers, etc...
- Repair of a damaged water line
- Replacement of faucets

Benefits of getting a permit:

- Project will be safe (if there is ever an insurance claim, you will have documentation that the work was inspected).
- Project will be legal (if property is ever sold, you will not need to worry about disclosure issues).
- If you hire a contractor, you will have an unbiased opinion that the work was done properly and to code.

Warning: Beware of contractors that encourage you not to get a permit or ask you to get the permit for them. These individuals are typically unlicensed and uninsured. If problems arise, they are often unwilling to do what is needed and the homeowner ends up being responsible for making the necessary corrections.

Examples of Work Requiring Permits:

- Room additions
- Finishing an unfinished attic or basement
- Replacing floor joists
- Decks & sunroom additions
- Detached carports, garages & workshops
- Detached storage buildings with any dimension greater than 12 feet.
- Installing or replacing furnaces, water heater, etc...
- Adding or relocating plumbing fixtures



Still Unsure? Call an inspector

North East Area
Electrical : 318-6562
Building: 318-6564
Plumb/Heat: 318-6363

North West Area
Electrical: 318-6579
Building: 318-6582
Plumb/Heat: 318-6580

Southern Area
Electrical: 318-6567
Building: 318-6566
Plumb/Heat: 318-6563

Randolph County Government

Phone: 336-318-6300

725 McDowell Road
PO Box 4728
Asheboro, NC 27205

We're on the Web!!

www.co.randolph.nc.us

Next Issue



Editors: Donovan Davis and Amanda Varner

If you would like to have e-mail notification when the County e-newsletter is published, please send an email to awvarner@co.randolph.nc.us



What is the Census?

- The census is a count of everyone living in the United States every 10 years.
- The census is mandated by the U.S. Constitution.
- The next census is in 2010.
- Your participation in the census is required by law.
- It takes less than 10 minutes to complete.
- Federal law protects the personal information you share during the census.

Census data are used to distribute Congressional seats to states, to make decisions about what community services to provide, and to distribute \$300 billion in federal funds to local, state and tribal governments each year.

Now through the end of June, locally hired workers will update the Census Bureau's address list — verifying, adding and correcting addresses.

To help ensure the accuracy of the census and improve efficiency, the Census Bureau has moved away from using traditional pencil and paper to update its address list and maps. Now, census workers will update the information electronically, using hand-held computers and coordinates from the Global Positioning System (GPS).

Residents can easily identify census workers by their official badges, a sign in their auto, hand-held computers and census bags.



May 17	The Dockside Band
June 21	Bantum Rooster
July 19	The Randolph Jazz Band
August 16	Annie Moses Band

Enjoy a great evening of entertainment during the **4th Annual City of Asheboro Summer Concert Series**. This year's line-up of artists promises to be the best yet! The Concert is **Free** and will be held in Bicentennial Park, located in Downtown Asheboro.

Concerts are held rain or shine! Bring your friends and family and a picnic basket and enjoy the wonderful music! Water and Coca-Cola Products will be available for a nominal fee.