



BRUNSWICK SPOTLIGHT

Welcome

Welcome to your "Brunswick Spotlight"! We are pleased to present to you the first Issue of what we hope will become an invaluable source of information to keep you connected with your County Government.

As a resident and/or property owner of Brunswick County, you are affected daily by the services administered by Brunswick County Government. Brunswick Spotlight is designed to help you learn more about these services and the positive impact they have on your daily life. It is our hope that each and every one of you will become more involved in your local government. We encourage you to be a part of your county by volunteering on committees and boards, attending meetings and letting us know your opinions and concerns. We want Brunswick County to remain a wonderful place to live, work and play for many generations to come.

Did You Know...

- That Brunswick County encompasses 856 square miles and ranks 6th in total land area of the 100 counties in North Carolina?
- That according to the US Census Bureau, Brunswick County is now the 29th fastest growing area in the nation?
- That as of 2006, the total population of Brunswick County is approximately 90,000?

Our Mission

The government of Brunswick County, North Carolina exists to promote and sustain a superior quality of life in southeastern North Carolina. In partnership with our communities, we pledge to deliver cost-effective services in a personal, responsive, and innovative manner, to our residents and visitors alike.

Commissioners Set Goals For 2006/07

Brunswick County is growing at a tremendous rate which places a huge responsibility on our local government. Controlling growth takes a lot of energy and careful planning.

During their Annual Budget Retreat the Board of Commissioners identified five (5) major goals to pursue during the upcoming fiscal year. These goals will be developed and implemented by our staff to ensure that Brunswick County continues to meet the needs of our ever growing population.

- To emphasize the professional development of managerial, supervisory and administrative personnel in every department to increase the upward mobility potential of existing personnel and reduce the impact on departments when a department head retires.
- To improve the appearance of the County and eliminate nuisances to the public and protect the rights and property values of individual property owners by improving and strengthening County ordinances relating to junk and abandoned vehicles and implement a Minimum Housing Code to provide a comprehensive tool to assist in the eradication of substandard residential structures.
- To form a partnership with the North Carolina State Ports Authority and other stakeholders in Brunswick County to ensure that the development process of the new North Carolina International Port is well coordinated and a positive experience for all.
- To develop a comprehensive action plan that will place the appropriate amount of financial burden and impact associated with growth on new construction and development, which requires increased service levels.
- To add Senior Citizen Centers/Community Centers to the County's Five-Year Capital Improvement Plan to provide facilities that are more conducive to the service needs of the growing senior population and address the indoor facility needs of the Parks and Recreation Programs.

County Sewer System Expansion

The wastewater collection and treatment system operated by the Public Utilities Department continues to expand to provide sewer service to more County residents. The Board of Commissioners has approved two Sewer Service Agreements at recent meetings. The County has entered into an agreement to take over ownership and operation of the Town of Shallotte Wastewater Treatment Plant and provide the Town with an additional 500,000 gpd of treatment capacity in the West Brunswick Water Reclamation Facility. The agreement also includes the construction of a pump station at the plant site and force main from the pump station to the existing County sewer system. Under the second agreement, the County will assume ownership of the existing wastewater treatment plant and wastewater collection system at Ocean Ridge Plantation. The residents of Ocean Ridge Plantation will become County customers under the terms of the agreement.



The Board of Commissioners has also approved contracts for design of a new pump station and force main that will transport wastewater from the Southwest section of the County to the West Brunswick Water Reclamation Facility. The pump station and 24" force main are schedule to be completed by mid 2008.



Brunswick County has selected GovDeals (www.govdeals.com), a state-of-the-art, online auction service for Local, State and Federal government agencies to conduct online sales of our surplus equipment and assets. Brunswick County joins the over 800 governments across the country who have adopted GovDeals patented online auction solution.

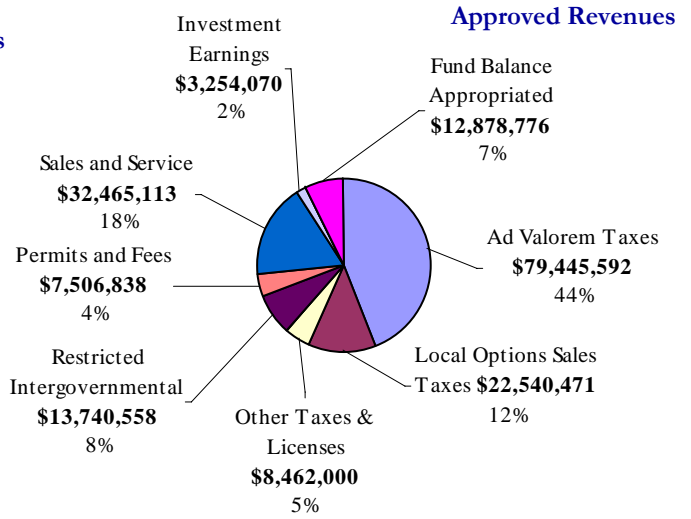
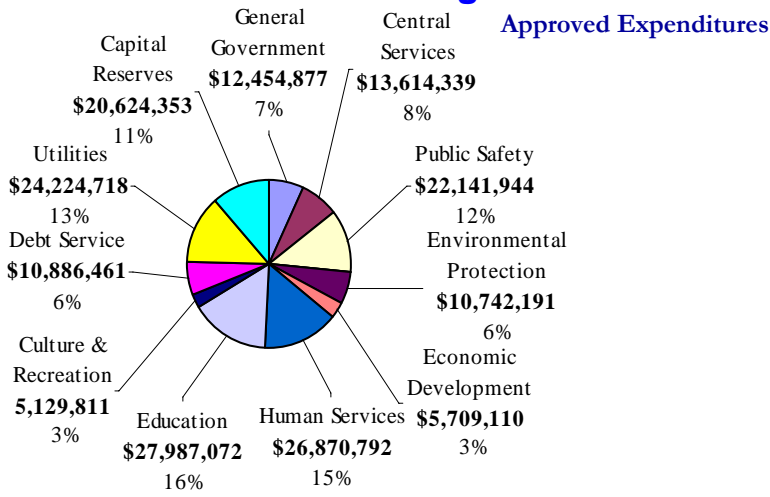
This service will help Brunswick County generate the most revenue out of our surplus equipment by offering them to a wider base of buyers through the Internet. We can now sell assets and offer a convenient opportunity for more of our citizens to participate. Another positive effect is that storage costs and vehicle and equipment depreciation losses will be substantially reduced.



A recent study showed that equipment and assets brought 47% more sold through GovDeals than via prior live public auctions.

Items for sale will be posted continuously on the web and can be accessed through the Brunswick County website at www.brunswickcountync.gov or directly through www.govdeals.com. Bidders can register free of charge at the GovDeals website.

Fiscal Year 2006-2007 Budget At a Glance



Brunswick Community College Bond Update — On November 2, 2004, the voters of Brunswick County approved a bond referendum authorizing \$30,000,000 of bonds to pay the costs of providing for the needed construction, renovation, improvement, equipping and furnishing of academic and support facilities, community center and a student center on the campus of Brunswick Community College and the expansion of its continuing education centers to include the Leland, South Brunswick Island, and Southport areas. On April 4, 2005 Brunswick County issued \$3,500,000 of the authorized Community College bonds to be used for the design costs of the projects. The bonds have varying interest rates from 3.75% to 4.5% and maturities scheduled until 2024. The majority of the college projects are under design with bids expected to be received in late 2006 and early 2007. The County plans to issue the remaining \$26,500,000 of bonds in March of 2007 to pay project construction costs.

Work Continues on County's UDO — The Brunswick County Planning Department is continuing its work on developing the County's first Unified Development Ordinance (UDO). To date, the County has held two public hearings and several neighborhood and community meetings to solicit citizen input on the proposed UDO. The UDO will incorporate several land development ordinances and will include the recently adopted new Flood Damage Prevention Ordinance which is intended to accompany FEMA's new Flood Insurance Rate Maps (FIRMs) for both the Cape Fear and Lumber River basins. The proposed UDO also includes key components aimed at preserving greenways, other environmentally sensitive areas and native tree species. Additionally, the UDO addresses the growing need for affordable housing in Brunswick County by providing an incentive-based approach to encourage the construction of an ample affordable housing stock. In the ensuing weeks, the County will release another draft of the proposed UDO and will host another round of citizen input meetings. A second draft already has been released for review following the neighborhood/community meetings and can be viewed/downloaded at www.brunswickcountync.gov.



Voluntary Agricultural District — Did you know that the Brunswick County Voluntary Agricultural District Program encourages the preservation and protection of farmland from non-farm development? Recognizing the importance of agriculture to the state's economic and cultural life, the North Carolina General Assembly authorized counties to establish programs encouraging farmland preservation. This statutory authority is found in Chapter 106, Article 61, of the North Carolina General Statutes. The Brunswick County Board of Commissioners adopted the Voluntary Agricultural District Ordinance in December, 2001. The Brunswick County Voluntary Agricultural District is governed by an Agricultural Board composed of five members approved by the Board of County Commissioners. The Board is responsible for approving

membership applications in the agricultural district. Currently there are 114 participants and 22,772 acres in the Voluntary Agricultural District Program. For more information contact: Brunswick County Cooperative Extension (253-2610), Natural Resources Conservation Service (253-4448 Ext.3) or Brunswick County Soil and Water Conservation District (253-2830).

In The Spotlight...



Did you know that the Brunswick County Government Center has a Cafeteria on site that is open to the public? The Cafeteria, located in the center of the complex in Building D, is open from 7:30 a.m. until 2:00 p.m., Monday - Friday and offers a wide variety of your favorite foods at a reasonable cost. Early visitors can choose between a quick bowl of cereal or a hot breakfast prior to 9:30 a.m. If it is lunch you are looking for, beginning at 11:30 a.m., the Cafeteria offers a cafeteria style menu, a grill menu and a salad bar, as well as a variety of desserts and snack items.



Front Row L-R: Mary Varnam, Juanita Jackson, Jeannie Soper, Angela Phelps
Back Row L-R: Katherine Nolan, Brad Babson (Manager), Whitney Pigotte, Shelletha Cooper
Absent: Crystal Duran



Remodeling completed in the Fall of 2005

In addition to serving the County employees and the public, the Cafeteria staff, which consists of eight fulltime employees, currently serves over 250 inmates, three meals per day, 365 days a year AND 400 meals per day, Monday - Friday to the elderly through Brunswick Senior Resources (BSR). That's over 373,000 meals a year!

The Cafeteria employees also recently began participating in a recycling program and are currently recycling over 100 lbs of steel cans per week. Because of their efforts, over 36,500 lbs of waste will be diverted from the landfill this year!

Whether you are looking for breakfast, lunch or just a snack, please stop by the Cafeteria on your next visit. Our courteous and friendly staff are waiting to serve you!



On Saturday September 16, the Brunswick County Solid Waste Department hosted its Fall Household Hazardous Waste Collection at the Wal-Mart in Southport. All Household Hazardous Waste were collected at no charge to residents. Electronics were also collected for recycling and clothing was collected and donated to the Hope Chest.

On Saturday, October 7th, Brunswick County participated in Big Sweep; a State wide clean up of North Carolina's watersheds. If you would like to participate at any similar upcoming events and help keep our beaches and waterways litter free, please contact Jennifer Whitley at (910) 253-2524.

