



# BRUNSWICK SPOTLIGHT

## 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.

## Fire Fees Changes

As you review your tax bill you may notice a change in the fire fee that you have been charged. During this past session of the North Carolina General Assembly, changes were approved to the Fire Fee House Bill to align and expand the categories of fire fees. Instead of capping homes at 2,500 square feet, they are now capped at 8,000 and commercial occupancies changed from 10,000 square feet to 100,000 square feet. The square footages and acreage used to establish fire fees are the same as the tax records. One Hundred percent of all fire fee monies that are collected are put into the fire district to provide fire protection to the area. Some departments have added paid staffing and new apparatus to better meet the demands of their district. Many of our fire departments have used fire fees as a catalyst to obtain a better insurance rating for their district, while others are preparing for their insurance rating inspection, resulting in lower insurance premiums for you. Just remember that the demands of fire protection require that appropriate funding be made available to ensure the safety of not only you, but the firefighters who are responding as well. If you have questions regarding the recent changes to the fire fees, please call Brunswick County Emergency Services 910-253-5383.

## Rourk Branch Library Up And Running

The recently renovated Rourk Branch Library in Shallotte is receiving high marks from the users, especially the younger set. The bright new children's wing can accommodate a small story time group or the whole lively Summer Reading Club. Adjacent space can be separated for public meetings and programs during regular library hours. All public internet computers are now grouped near the circulation desk, so users have quick access to staff assistance. In contrast, the crescent-shaped reading room is a peaceful area for studying the Wall Street Journal or skimming a best seller. The expansion project was funded by Brunswick County, a private grant, and the Friends of the Rourk Library. The addition was designed by Raleigh architect Larry W. Deckard and built ahead of schedule by Jessie & Myers Construction of Ocean Isle Beach. The County's Maintenance and Parks & Recreation departments handled additional carpentry, painting, and landscaping. Library volunteers and staff managed the packing, unpacking, and re-shelving of all those books and DVDs.



Friends of the Library hosted the joyful open house when the library reopened. Information about Rourk Library's programs and materials can be found at <http://library.brunscoco.net>, or better yet, stop by 5068 Main Street and check it out!

## Health Department Receives ADA Recognition

The Brunswick County Health Department is thrilled to announce two major achievements for diabetes education: 1. that the North Carolina Diabetes Education Recognition Program was granted recognition by American Diabetes Association and 2. that the Kate B. Reynolds Charitable Trust has awarded the state a three year grant of \$125,000 per year to hire a second Registered Dietitian to help expand the program.



Pictured is the Brunswick Diabetes Education Team - Fred Michael (Deputy Health Director), Patty Ellis (Dietitian), Diana Jones (Registered Nurse), Jenn Miller (Health Educator), and Anne Wrenn (WIC Director).

The American Diabetes Association recognition will enable the health department to bill for Diabetes Self Management Education services. Brunswick County was selected as one of five pilot counties to test the educational curriculum and gather data to help complete the application process.

Don Yousey, Health Director, said that "achieving American Diabetes Association recognition is costly, time consuming and very hard to successfully complete." That is why so few diabetes education programs exist. "Now, with this recognition," Mr. Yousey said, "the program will become one of the services offered by the health department." Within the next few years, all health departments across the state will be able to participate.

The grant from Kate B. Reynolds will enable the state to add 10 to 15 more counties to the program next year with a similar number being added each year thereafter.

**For more information, please contact the Health Department at 910-253-2250.**

## Debit/Credit Card Payments Are Here!

As part of our commitment to provide the citizens of Brunswick County with efficient, convenient service, Brunswick County Public Utilities is offering debit and credit card services as well as e-check payment of water and sewer bills over the Internet at [www.brunswickcountync.gov](http://www.brunswickcountync.gov) and by telephone by calling 1-800-272-9829. Use jurisdiction code 3951 and your six digit account number and six digit customer number.

Official Payments, the service provider, charges the customer a convenience fee of \$2 for every \$100 of payments.

## Brunswick County Will Collect Property Taxes For Nine More Municipalities

Brunswick County has developed a partnership agreement to collect property taxes for nine additional municipalities this year. Brunswick County has been collecting property taxes for Navassa, St. James, Sandy Creek, and Varnamtown for many years. Starting this year, the County will also collect for Belville, Boiling Spring Lakes, Bolivia, Carolina Shores, Leland, Northwest, Shallotte, Sunset Beach, and Village of Bald Head Island. Customers in these thirteen municipalities will receive only one bill, and they can pay with just one transaction.

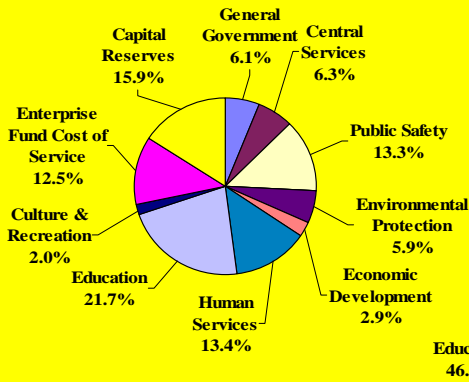
In addition to having the payment options of mailing checks, or paying in person at the County Tax Office in Bolivia, customers will be able to pay on-line via credit card (a convenience fee is added). This option is available by going to [www.brunswickcountync.gov](http://www.brunswickcountync.gov) then click on Tax-Information, and click on Pay Taxes By Credit Card.

The towns of Calabash, Caswell Beach, Holden Beach, Oak Island, Ocean Isle Beach, and Southport will continue to send their own property tax bills. Customers in these towns will have no change in the way they pay their county and city property taxes.

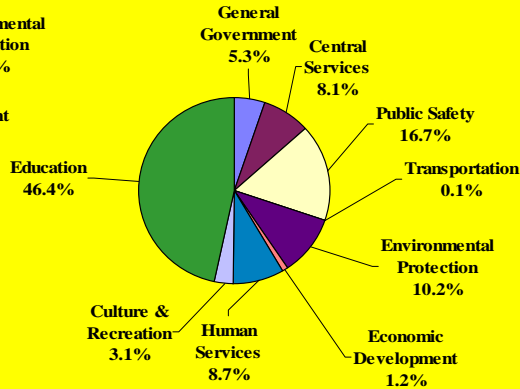
**For more information, please contact the Brunswick County Tax Office at 910-253-2729. Office hours are 8:30 am to 5:00 pm Monday through Friday.**

# Fiscal Year 2008-2009 Budget At A Glance

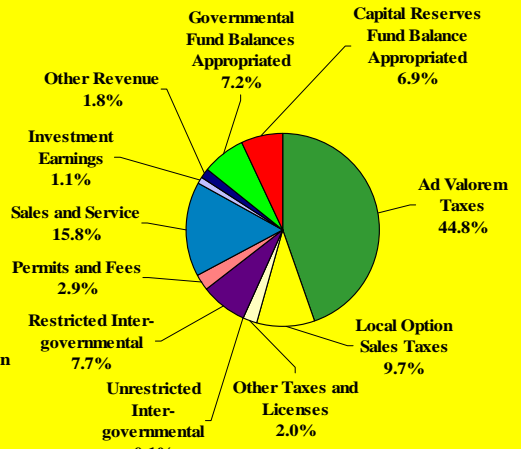
## Approved Expenditures



## How Property Tax Dollars Are Spent



## Approved Revenues



## Solid Waste/Recycling News & Events - Fall Clean Up Activities

**Free Disposal at the Landfill**—During the week of Monday, September 15 through Saturday, September 20, 2008, Brunswick County residents can dispose of all materials, except regular household trash or new construction debris, for free. Anyone driving a commercial vehicle will be charged regular tipping fees.

**Household Hazardous Waste Collection, Electronics Recycling and Clothing Drive**—Brunswick County will collect HHW at the Wal-Mart in Southport on Saturday September 20, 2008 from 9 am until 2 pm. This collection will be free for county residents and farmers only; no commercial or industrial waste will be accepted. In addition, Electronics and clothing will be collected at this event. The electronics will be recycled and the clothing will be donated to a local non-profit agency. Electronics may also be brought to the landfill site in Bolivia any time throughout the year.

**BIG SWEEP**—On Saturday, October 4, Brunswick County will join forces with NC Big Sweep. Keep Brunswick County Beautiful is seeking volunteers to clean up beaches and roadways throughout the County to make it a safer, and more beautiful place to live and work.

**For more information on these events, contact Jennifer Whitley in the Solid Waste Department at (910) 253- 2524.**

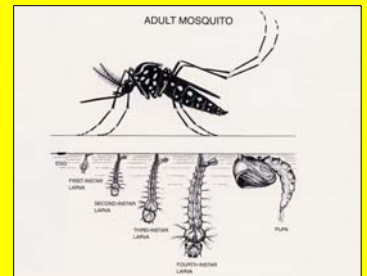
**Household Mosquito Control**—The Asian tiger mosquito (*Aedes albopictus*) is most commonly found within 300 feet of a home. Homeowners can reduce their risk by eliminating mosquito breeding sites and protecting yourself from mosquito bites.

### What homeowners can do:

- Empty or recycle containers in your yard that can collect water, like tires, buckets, and bottles and plastic tarps.
- Change water in pet bowls and bird baths at least twice a week.
- Cover unused swimming pools.
- Clean clogged rain gutters.
- Repair leaky outdoor faucets.

### Protect yourself from mosquito bites:

- Wear long-sleeved shirts and pants.
- Avoid being outdoors when there are a lot of mosquitoes, such as at dawn and dusk.
- Avoid areas where there are lots of mosquitoes.
- Use repellents with DEET (25 % or less for adults, 10% or less for children) to prevent mosquito bites, following label instructions.



The life cycle of a mosquito. The larval stages are always found in water.

**For more information contact Brunswick County Mosquito Control at (910) 253- 2515. You may also Email us at: [op-svcs@brunsc.net](mailto:op-svcs@brunsc.net).**



## In The Spotlight...

Brunswick County Solid Waste and Recycling offers a wide variety of services for the residents of Brunswick County. The Solid Waste Department operates the County Landfill in Supply and owns four Convenience Centers located throughout the County which are operated by Waste Industries. The Department also operates seven additional sites for commingled recycling collection. These sites are located throughout the County at various locations including County parks. In addition, the Solid Waste Department manages the County's contract with Waste Industries for curbside garbage collection which provides each home in Brunswick County with a 90 gallon trash container for weekly collection.

Each year the Department hosts a spring and fall cleanup. In April and September, the County Landfill offers free dump week to all residents to dispose of household waste. The week is concluded with a one day collection event, held in Shallotte in April and in Southport in September, to collect hazardous waste for disposal and electronics and clothing for recycling.

The Solid Waste Department employs a Solid Waste Officer who checks citizens' complaints and investigates illegal dumpsites. The officer may issue fines for solid waste violations including intentional and unintentional littering and illegal dumping. The Department also offers educational programs to the citizens of Brunswick County and is available to conduct workshops, presentations and trainings for groups of all ages. Recently, recycling was implemented in the Schools in Brunswick County, which includes recycling education for all students.

Keep Brunswick County Beautiful (KBCB), an affiliate of Keep America Beautiful, Inc. is also a part of the Brunswick County Solid Waste Department. KBCB conducts beautification projects including Litter Sweep, Big Sweep and the Cigarette Litter Prevention Program.

**To learn more about the above activities or services, or if you would like to volunteer with Keep Brunswick County Beautiful, please call the Solid Waste Department at (910) 253-2520 or email [jwhitley@brunsc.net](mailto:jwhitley@brunsc.net).**

