



INSIGHTS

people | services | community

The online magazine for Wake County Employees.

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In this Issue:

Holiday Event Canceled

Message from the Manager: Holiday Event

Each year, the County hosts the Annual Holiday Event for employees and their families as a way of saying thank you for their hard work and dedication during the calendar year. Yet, in these tough economic times there is a hiring freeze in effect and budget reductions, it would not be fiscally responsible to have this event. So, we are canceling this year's holiday party.

2008 Combined Campaign Update

However, the Holiday Cheer Program will distribute coupon books to employees, which were purchased before the budget cuts and hiring freeze being considered.

Wake Provides Holiday Waste Recycling

Please know that the cancellation of the Holiday Event is not a reflection on how employees or their contributions are appreciated. It was a unanimous decision by the County Manager's Senior Management Team not to have a party this year.

Employees Brace for Flu Season at Free Vaccination Clinics

Please have a happy and safe holiday season.

2008 Combined Campaign Update

Annual Wake Public Library Book Sale a Success

The 2008 Wake County Combined Campaign ended on Friday, November 21. As of noon that day, total pledges and contributions had reached \$63,000.

And the Newbery Medal Award Winner is...

The Wake County Combined Campaign contributions go to five diverse community organizations -- Earth Share, Community Health Charities, N.C. Community Shares, United Arts, and United Way -- that distribute your designated gifts to benefit hundreds of nonprofits and charities and improve millions of lives.

Wake Celebrates 5th Anniversary of Lennox Chase

Watch for a Combined Campaign wrap-up in the next issue of *Insights* that will include highlights of Combined Campaign events, the grand total of the campaign and an announcement of grand prize winners. The Campaign wrap-up will also recognize the generous prize and venue sponsors, and the staff volunteers who coordinated the Campaign.

Thanks to all who contributed to making lives brighter in Wake County.

Come Learn About Raleigh's Own

Wake Provides Holiday Waste Recycling

The 15th annual Holiday Wrap-Up will run from December 26, 2008, to January 18, 2009. The following materials can be recycled:

President

Applying
for an
Award?

- Christmas trees (no ornaments, lights or tinsel)
- Wrapping paper (no foil, bows or twine)
- Holiday cards
- SBS Board (such as shirt boxes)
- Corrugated cardboard
- Chipboard (such as paper roll tubes and cereal boxes)
- Magazines and catalogs

These items will be accepted at the following Wake County Convenience Centers:

- Convenience Center #1 (10505 Old Stage Road, Garner)
- Convenience Center #2 (6000 Old Smithfield Road, Apex)
- Convenience Center #4 (3600 Yates Mill Pond Road, South Raleigh)
- Convenience Center #7 (9008 Deponie Drive, North Raleigh)
- Convenience Center #11 (5101 Wendell Boulevard, Wendell)

All Convenience Centers are open from 7:00 a.m. to 7:00 p.m., Monday through Sunday. They will be closed after noon on Christmas Eve and all day on Christmas Day.

Christmas trees only will be accepted between December 26 and January 18 at Blue Jay Point County Park, Harris Lake County Park and Lake Crabtree County Park during regular park hours.

For more information, call the Wake County Solid Waste Management Division at 856-7400.

Employees Brace for Flu Season with Free Vaccination Clinics

Employees received free influenza vaccinations from November 18 - 20 at a number of Wake County office locations. According to the Center for Disease Control (CDC), the single best way to protect against the flu is to get vaccinated each year.

The flu can be spread through coughing, sneezing or touching something with the flu virus on it and then touching the mouth, nose or eyes. In addition to regular flu shots, the CDC also recommends good health habits in order to avoid getting the flu and spreading it to others. These suggested habits are:

- Avoid close contact.
- Stay home when you are sick.
- Cover your mouth and nose.
- Clean your hands.
- Avoid touching your eyes, nose or mouth.

Practicing other healthy habits, like getting plenty of sleep, regular exercise, managing stress, and eating healthy and nutritious foods, will also help to avoid getting and spreading the flu.

To encourage healthy habits in your office, download a Good Health Manners poster here.

For more information on keeping healthy this flu season, visit www.wakeemployees.com/wellness.

Annual Wake Public Library Book Sale a Success

Wake employees stocked up on free books for their offices at the first day of the annual Wake County Public Library Book Sale.

The event, which is a fundraiser for Wake County Public Libraries, also benefited Wake County agencies as books gathered by teachers and employees will be used in classrooms, school libraries, clinics, shelters, and for training and other professional purposes.

More than 350,000 books were available for purchase Nov. 19-23. Books chosen for sale at this event were removed from shelves due to decline in demand or were donated to the library. Book prices started at \$4 per hardback and \$1 per paperback on Wednesday. Those waiting until the last day of the sale were able to purchase books for \$5 per box and \$2 per bag.

And the Newbery Medal Award Winner is...

Where in Wake County will you find middle-school students using the latest social networking technology to increase literacy, develop critical thinking skills and chat with famous authors? Each Friday night, the Eva Perry Regional Library Mock Newbery Club in Apex hosts a room of avid readers who debate the merits of eligible Newbery Award titles, narrowing it down to the very best before voting in January on what book they think should win the year's Newbery Medal.

With the addition of a blog to the club's Web site, club leaders Martha Choate and Lisa Ward noted the site has received over 22,000 hits. Mock Newbery clubs across the nation, as well as the *School Library Journal's* Fuse8 and Heavy Medal sites, the Association of Library Services for Children Web site, and numerous libraries and bookstores link to the Eva Perry site. Fifteen authors have also found the blog and have posted or linked to the Club from their own sites.

With the addition of social networking technology, the Eva Perry Mock Newbery Club has reached beyond Wake County, boasting national and global connections. To learn more or to join the fun, visit <http://www.wakegov.com/libraries/reading/clubs/evaperrymocknewbery.htm>.

Wake Celebrates 5th Anniversary of Lennox Chase

Wake County Human Services' Supportive Housing Program staff joined community leaders to celebrate the 5th anniversary of Lennox Chase Apartments, a supportive housing rental community for low-income citizens. The festivities were held Saturday, November 22, 2008, at 2534 Lake Wheeler Road, Raleigh. The celebration included the annual Thanksgiving Dinner for tenants and guests.

The community is designed to help individuals make a successful transition from homelessness, transitional or substandard housing to a more permanent living situation.

To learn more about Supportive Housing in Wake County, contact Claire Denning at 919-231-5956.

Come Learn About Raleigh's Own President

In commemoration of President Andrew Johnson's 200th birthday, a number of events that are free and open to the public will be offered at the State Capitol Building in downtown Raleigh.

On December 1, 2008, Dr. Dan T. Carter, one of the nation's foremost Southern historians, will present, "Andrew Johnson and the Challenge of Presidential Leadership after the Civil War." The lecture will be at 12 p.m. in the Old House Chamber of the State Capitol Building. It is sponsored by the North Carolina Department of Cultural Resources' Office of Archives and History and is part of the 2008 "Telling Our Stories" theme.

The State Capitol will also host an exhibit on Andrew Johnson's North Carolina roots and his turbulent times in office in, "Raleigh's Own President: Andrew Johnson's Life in North Carolina." This exhibit is on display through January 16, 2009.

For more information on President Johnson commemoration events, please visit <http://news.ncdcr.gov/2008/10/27/program-examines-%E2%80%9Craleigh%E2%80%99s-own-president%E2%80%9D-andrew-johnson/>

For more information on arts, cultural and historical events happening in Raleigh and throughout the state, visit the Department of Cultural Resources' website at www.ncculture.com.

Applying for an Award?

Is the program you work for applying for an award or another form of recognition? Has your program recently received an award or recognition? Be sure to let the Public Affairs Office know so we can share the good news with co-workers, Commissioners and the media.

For more information, contact Public Affairs Manager Wil Glenn or Public Affairs Director Marshall Parrish, or e-mail *Insights* at Insights@co.wake.nc.us.

News ideas? Something Wake employees should know about?
Submit your Insights suggestions to insights@co.wake.nc.us

www.wakeemployees.com/insights