



TEAMBLADEN

September 2016
Bladen County
Government Newsletter

DEPARTMENT HEADS:

Co. Manager: Greg Martin
Animal Control: Kory Hair
Building Inspections:
Matt Chadwick
Clerk of Courts:
Nikki Dennis
Computer Operations:
Robin Hewett
Consolidated
Human Services
Health: David Howard
DSS: Vickie Smith
Economic Development:
Chuck Heustess
Elections: Cynthia Shaw
Emergency Services:
Bradley Kinlaw
EMS: David Howell, Jr.
Extension: Sandra Cain
Finance: Lisa Coleman
Human Resources: Shonteia Keaton
Library: Kelsey Edwards
Operations: David "Kip" McClary
Planning: Greg Elkins
Recreation: Grant Pait
Register of Deeds:
Beverly Parks
Revenue: Renee Davis
Senior Services: Joan Allen
Soil & Water: Dean Morris
Sheriff: James McVicker
Water: Randy Garner

Labor Day: What it Means

Labor Day, the first Monday in September, is a creation of the labor movement and is dedicated to the social and economic achievements of American workers. It constitutes a yearly national tribute to the contributions workers have made to the strength, prosperity, and well-being of our country.

Labor Day Legislation

Through the years the nation gave increasing emphasis to Labor Day. The first governmental recognition came through municipal ordinances passed during 1885 and 1886. From these, a movement developed to secure state legislation. The first state bill was introduced into the New York legislature, but the first to become law was passed by Oregon on February 21, 1887. During the year four more states — Colorado, Massachusetts, New Jersey, and New York — created the Labor Day holiday by legislative enactment. By the end of the decade Connecticut, Nebraska, and Pennsylvania had followed suit. By 1894, 23 other states had adopted the holiday in honor of workers, and on June 28 of that year, Congress passed an act making the first Monday in September of each year a legal holiday in the District of Columbia and the territories.

Founder of Labor Day

More than 100 years after the first Labor Day observance, there is still some doubt as to who first proposed the holiday for workers.

Some records show that Peter J. McGuire, general secretary of the Brotherhood of Carpenters and Joiners and a cofounder of the American Federation of Labor, was first in suggesting a day to honor those "who from rude nature have delved and carved all the grandeur we behold."

But Peter McGuire's place in Labor Day history has not gone unchallenged. Many believe that Matthew Maguire, a machinist, not Peter McGuire, founded the holiday. Recent research seems to support the contention that Matthew Maguire, later the secretary of Local 344 of the International Association of Machinists in Paterson, N.J., proposed the holiday in 1882 while serving as secretary of the Central Labor Union in New York. What is clear is that the Central Labor Union adopted a Labor Day proposal and appointed a committee to plan a demonstration and picnic.

The First Labor Day

The first Labor Day holiday was celebrated on Tuesday, September 5, 1882, in New York City, in accordance with the plans of the Central Labor Union. The Central Labor Union held its second Labor Day holiday just a year later, on September 5, 1883.

In 1884 the first Monday in September was selected as the holiday, as originally proposed, and the Central Labor Union urged similar organizations in other cities to follow the example of New York and celebrate a "workingmen's holiday" on that date. The idea spread with the growth of labor organizations, and in 1885 Labor Day was celebrated in many industrial centers of the country.

A Nationwide Holiday

The form that the observance and celebration of Labor Day should take was outlined in the first proposal of the holiday — a street parade to exhibit to the public "the strength and esprit de corps of the trade and labor organizations" of the community, followed by a festival for the recreation and amusement of the workers and their families. This became the pattern for the celebrations of Labor Day. Speeches by prominent men and women were introduced later, as more emphasis was placed upon the economic and civic significance of the holiday. Still later, by a resolution of the American Federation of Labor convention of 1909, the Sunday preceding Labor Day was adopted as Labor Sunday and dedicated to the spiritual and educational aspects of the labor movement.

The character of the Labor Day celebration has undergone a change in recent years, especially in large industrial centers where mass displays and huge parades have proved a problem. This change, however, is more a shift in emphasis and medium of expression. Labor Day addresses by leading union officials, industrialists, educators, clerics and government officials are given wide coverage in newspapers, radio, and television.

The vital force of labor added materially to the highest standard of living and the greatest production the world has ever known and has brought us closer to the realization of our traditional ideals of economic and political democracy. It is appropriate, therefore, that the nation pay tribute on Labor Day to the creator of so much of the nation's strength, freedom, and leadership — the American worker.

BLADEN COUNTY GIVES ITS EMPLOYEES 2- PERCENT RAISE

ELIZABETHTOWN — Bladen County commissioners saved the best for last on Monday. After a short closed session, Commissioner Charles Ray Peterson made a motion to give all county employees a 2 percent raise, retroactive to July 1. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Jimmy Smith and, without further discussion, the ensuing vote was unanimous. "The raises were already budgeted (for fiscal year 2016-17)," said County Manager Greg Martin.

But there was more good news during Monday's regular meeting. During the "Matters of Interest to Commissioners" segment, Peterson made a motion to hire three new paramedics and two basic EMTs for the county's EMS. That motion was seconded by Smith and, again without further discussion, the motion was passed unanimously.

In other action Monday, the board:

— Recognized county employees with extended years of service. Those employees included Donna Taylor , five years with the Division on Aging; Amy Burney, five years with DSS; Martha Howe, five years with DSS; Wanda Wilson, 25 years with the Health Department; and Carol Strickland, 30 years with the Health Department.

— Approved a bid on a foreclosed property on Center Road in Bladenboro for \$8,100.

— Heard from Finance Officer Lisa Coleman that the county revenues are at 96.43 percent of budget through June and the expenditures are at 91.91 percent.

— Were told by Health & Human Services Director David Howard that the county's Home Health Program has a caseload of 138, its highest in a year, but that the program is operating in the red.

"We made money in May, but so far \$116,000 has been billed in June but not received," Howard said. "We can't bill until 90 days after the patient is brought into the program, and then we don't know how much we will receive from Medicaid or Medicare.

"Our hope is to break even this fiscal year," he added, "but ultimately we need to target 90 percent payment. We're at about 70 percent now."

— Approved a renewal agreement for the Young Families Connect Program with Bladen Community College, Families First and the Child Care Network.

— At the request of Emergency Services Director Bradley Kinlaw, approved a Regional Incident Management Mutual Aid Agreement with 12 other counties in the area.

— Approved an agreement for engineering services at Lock & Dam No. 2 and No. 3 for the Fishway Construction Project.

The next meeting of the county commissioners will be Monday, Aug. 1, at 6:30 p.m.

<http://bladenjournal.com/top-stories/7063/bladen-county-gives-its-employees-2-percent-raise>

Dublin Peanut Festival Accepting Applications

The Dublin Peanut Festival Pageant Committee is accepting applications for the 2016 Dublin Peanut Festival Scholarship Pageant that will be held Saturday, September 10th, 2016. At the end of the Queens one year reign, she will be presented a \$1,000.00 check, provided she has met all her requirements set forth in her contract. The check will be made payable to the college she will be attending in the fall. What a great opportunity! Message us online at:

Facebook.com/DPFScholarshipPageant for an application.

Dublin Peanut Festival organizers are now accepting Craft & Food Vendor Applications for the festival that will be held September 17th, 2016. Contact Jane Starnes at 910-862-4301 or visit www.dublinpeanutfestival.com for your application.

Classic Cruisers Car Club is now accepting registration for the Dublin Peanut Festival car show to be held September 17th, 2016 on festival day. For more info contact Wayne Dove at (910) 876-5578.



The Dublin Peanut Festival Parade Begins at 10:00am September 17th, 2016

Contact Pete Batton @ 910-876-1855 For More Information

**Our parade is sure to have something for everyone. From clowns, fire trucks,
beauty queens to spiffy old automobiles that's sure to bring back memories.**

Parade entry is FREE except for Beauty Queens and Kings.

The fee for Queens and Kings is as follows:

- \$25.00 for 1 Queen in an auto**
- \$40.00 for 2 to 3 Queens in an auto**
- \$50.00 per Float or Boat in the parade for Queens and Kings**

**If we do not receive your entry fee for the parade before
September 12th, 2016, the fee will be \$75.00.**

Please make checks payable to The Dublin Peanut Festival and mail to:

**DUBLIN PEANUT FESTIVAL
PO BOX 561
DUBLIN, N.C. 28332**

Please include the following:

- 1) Name of Queen(s) King(s)**
- 2) Organization represented**
- 3) Amount Paid**

NCDPI RECOMMENDS CLOSURE OF THREE SCHOOLS TO BOARD OF EDUCATION

The meeting many have been waiting for left parents with still more questions than answers. The North Carolina Department of Public Instruction (NCDPI) is proposing three schools to be closed in Bladen County.

Ken Phelps with NCDPI said, “We have a two prong recommendation.”

Phelps did stress, NCDPI only considered the facility needs in their investigation into consolidation. Issues such as bus routes, staff assignments, and school performance were not considered and is not reflected in the NCDPI consolidation proposal. DPI agreed with the school board’s previous findings in reference to the primary schools, according to Phelps. Plain View Primary and Booker T. Washington are the two primary schools NCDPI recommended closing. Phelps said the suggestion from NCDPI is to move the students from the two primary schools that will close to East Arcadia and Bladenboro schools.

The two prong recommendation came into play when NCDPI made the middle school consolidation suggestion, according to Phelps. Clarkton School of Discovery or Tar Heel Middle School are the two middle schools NCDPI brought to the table for a decision for school consolidation. Phelps said, “If you leave either one of these schools open I recommend you look at the needs list. I also realize there may be some financial constraints with closing Tar Heel [Middle School] because of agreements with the county.”

According to Phelps, Tar Heel has more mechanical issues and Clarkton has more electrical problems. Bladen County Board of Education member Ophelia Munn-Goins said, “Now, if something happens, we as the board will be held accountable because we have the list of the needs.”

The focus of NCDPI was on things that are code violations, safety violations, and health violations, according to Phelps.

The report reflects the same findings the board was presented with about 10 years ago with a cost then of \$60 million, according to Dr. Robert Taylor, Bladen County Superintendent.

“We know these things need to be addressed,” Taylor said. “What was \$60 million 10 years ago may be \$85 million today,” he continued.

Dr. Wilbur Smith, chairman of the board, said, “This will be one piece of what will impact what we want to do.”

Audience member Phyliss Miller asked the board if she could ask questions of Phelps about his findings. Miller and a number of other citizens followed Phelps out of the meeting asking the consultant questions about his report. The board will take some time to look over the NCDPI investigation, according to Smith.

Read the full report from NC DPI [Bladen County Schools Investigation into Consolidation](#)

BASIC LAW ENFORCEMENT TRAINING BEGINS SEPTEMBER 22 AT BCC

DUBLIN – Bladen Community College will begin classes for men and women interested in Basic Law Enforcement Training (BLET) on September 22, 2016. Over the past 25 years, the college has graduated 250 candidates, providing skilled law enforcement personnel to local, town, county, regional, state, and federal organizations.

The BLET program combines physical conditioning with required classwork. Coursework includes intensive training in the use of firearms, emergency vehicle operation, defense tactics, legalities, and diffusing domestic violence.

Eligible candidates for the BLET Academy must meet certain conditions. 1) Candidates must be citizens of the United States, and provide a copy of their birth certificate or naturalization papers. 2) Candidates must be at least 20 years of age at the time of registration. 3) Each candidate must be sponsored or employed by a public law enforcement agency prior to enrollment and maintain that sponsorship or employment throughout the course. 4) All candidates must provide to the BLET School Director, a *Letter of Intent to sponsor the candidate from the sponsoring agency. The letter must include a statement verifying that a criminal background check on the attendant has been conducted and that no disqualifying offenses were discovered. The letter should also indicate that the attendant is of sufficient moral character to attend the Basic Law Enforcement Training Academy.* 5) *No candidate will be admitted to the Academy that does not meet the minimum standards for employment as established by the N.C. Criminal Justice Education and Training Standards Commission and/or the N.C. Sheriff's Education and Training Standards Commission.*

Classes meet Monday through Friday evenings, from 5:30 p.m. until 10 p.m. and every other Saturday, from 8 AM until 5 PM. The 26-weeks program is approved for financial aid and VA benefits.

For more information about the Basic Law Enforcement Training Academy, contact John Trogdon, at [910-879-5536](tel:910-879-5536), or jtrogdon@bladencc.edu.

<http://www.bladenonline.com/basic-law-enforcement-training-begins-september-22-at-bcc/>

SAVE THE DATE!!!



Crazy Fun **5K** Color Run & Walk



When: Saturday, October 15th, 2016 at 9:00 am.

Where: Bladen County Industrial Park, Elizabethtown, NC

***Race day registration starts at 7:30am.**

-Individual Registration \$20-

-Child Registration (children must be 12 and under) \$15 each-

Register early to reserve your t-shirts!

For more information contact Bob Mundy at:

910-876-3720

Visit our Facebook page at: <https://www.facebook.com/CrazyFun5KColorRunWalk>

All proceeds benefit the United Way of Bladen County!

***This event is in cooperation with Bladen County 4-H**

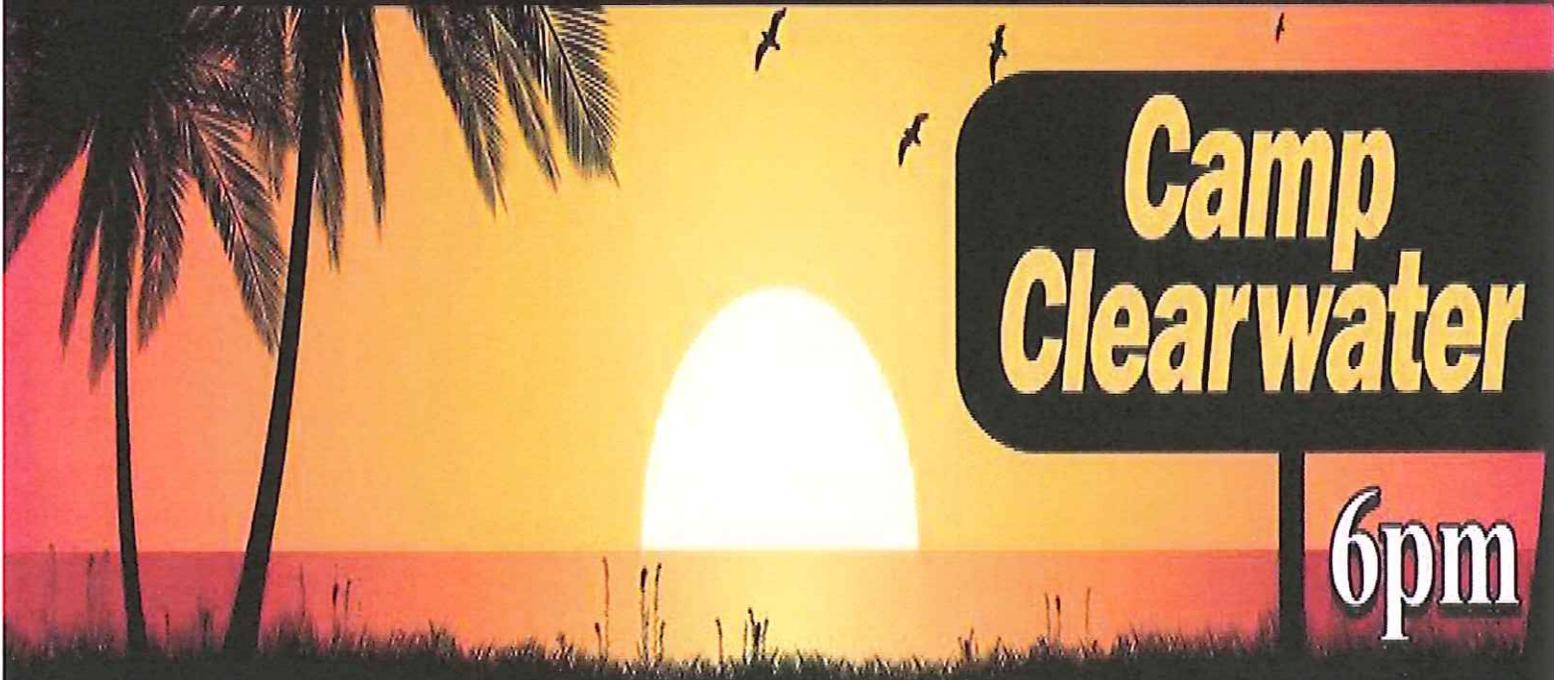
BLADEN COUNTY ANIMAL SHELTER HOLDS ANNUAL ADOPTION SPECIAL

Bladen County Animal Shelter will be waiving the adoption fee for all dogs from Monday, Aug. 29, through Friday, Sept. 9. You will still be required to pay the \$25 vaccination fee for the dogs. The shelter is full and we hope that waiving the adoption fee for these two weeks will help get new homes for some of our dogs. We have a lot of dogs waiting on that special person to make a big difference in their life and give them the loving home they deserve.

The adoption hours are Monday- Friday from noon until 5 p.m. The shelter will be closed on Labor day. We have pictures of all of the dogs available for adoption on our facebook page (Bladen County Animal Control and Shelter). Please come out to the shelter and give these dogs a second chance to share their love with you. If you have any questions call the shelter at 910-862-6918.

<http://www.bladenonline.com/bladen-county-animal-shelter-holds-adoption-special/>

Seafood & Sunset - Oct. 13th



**Camp
Clearwater**

6pm



Bladen Community College Foundation
Fall Fundraiser Call: 910 879-5519

COMMISSIONERS HEAR FUND BALANCE REPORT

The Bladen County Commissioners heard an update from Finance Director Lisa Coleman on Monday regarding the fund balance for the year ending June 30, 2016. Coleman told the board that the fund balance for the year ending FY 2015-16 could see an estimated increase of \$3.5 million.

“This is just an estimate,” said Coleman.

The reason for the estimated fund balance increase, according to Coleman, was due to unpaid jail expenses of \$1.1 million; a reimbursement for the jail project of \$1.5 million; and rollover items of \$262,026.

Coleman said that as of the budget of 2015-16, the county had increased taxes to help pay for the jail expenses which generated \$1,108,457. She said that money was not spent as a payment was not due as of June 30, 2016. She said the county also paid an upfront cost last year for the jail project which has since been reimbursed.

Coleman explained that rollover items are funds which are designated for specific purposes but have gone unused as of June 30, 2016.

She said that as of the FY 2016-17 budget, \$2,221,264 of the fund balance has already been appropriated. This includes the additional EMS positions that were added on July 18.

She estimated that if there are no changes, the total fund balance for the fiscal year ending 2015-16 will be about \$19 million.

<http://www.bladenonline.com/commissioners-hear-fund-balance-report/>

COUNTY BOARD HEARS FINANCIAL UPDATE

The Bladen County Board of Commissioners met on Monday and received the financial report for the period ending July 31, 2016, from Finance Director Lisa Coleman. The county began a new budget year on June 30, 2016.

She told the board that as of July 31, the county has collected 5.96 percent of the budgeted revenues for FY 2016 17. The county has spent 10.34 percent of the revenues collected. The county is showing year-to-date revenues of \$2,714,137 and year-to-date expenditures in the amount of \$4,711,608 . The county budget currently shows a fund balance decrease of \$1,997,470.

On the jail project, Coleman said the budget shows actual revenues for the jail project to be \$22,863,657 and the expenditures to be \$5,589,521 for a fund balance of \$17,274,136. The solid waste fund has received 2.82 percent of the budgeted revenue and spent 28.69 percent of those revenues. The budget shows actual revenues for the solid waste fund to be \$59,299 as of July 31 and the expenditures to be \$603,728 for a fund balance decrease of \$544,430.

The emergency telephone fund has received 5.47 percent of the budgeted revenues and spent 3.04 percent. The budget shows actual revenues for the emergency telephone to be \$15,562 as of July 31 and the expenditures to be \$8,661 for a fund balance of \$6,901. The water department has received 9.29 of the budgeted revenues and spent 49.46 percent. The budget shows actual revenues for the solid waste fund to be \$192,485 as of July 31 and the expenditures to be \$143,316 for a fund balance of \$49,168.

VFW ANNOUNCES UPCOMING PROGRAMS FOR STUDENTS

The Raymond W. Biglow VFW Post 8062 is pleased to announce two upcoming opportunities for middle and high school students. The National VFW conducts the Patriot's Pen and Voice of Democracy contests annually. These contests give students the chance to write essays for judging that could win them significant prizes.

The Patriot's Pen is open to students in grades 6 – 8 to write a 300-400 word essay on "The America I Believe In." A winner is selected by VFW Post 8062 which is forwarded for District judging. District winners are submitted for State VFW judging. One National winner is then chosen from all the State entries. Prizes awarded range from \$500 – \$5,000 for winners on the State and National levels.

Voice of Democracy is open to students in grades 9 – 12 who will write and record a 3 – 5 minute audio essay on the theme of "My Responsibility to America." The essay must be recorded on an audio CD or flash drive for submission for judging. Once a local winner is chosen by VFW Post 8062, that essay will be judged on a District level. District winners compete to be named a State winner. One National winner is named from all the State winners. Prizes awarded range from \$1,000 – \$30,000 on the State and National levels.

Information on both these programs will be furnished to the local schools in the coming weeks. Teachers are encouraged to see their Principals for the brochures which give all the details they can share with their students. Students may contact their teachers if they are interested in competing in case the programs are not mentioned to them in class.

Entry deadline for both programs is NOVEMBER 1, 2016.

For additional information, please contact J. Oliver Gause, Post Commander VFW 8062, at [910-862-9543](tel:910-862-9543) or visit www.vfw.org and search for Patriot's Pen or Voice of Democracy Programs.

A regular meeting of the Bladen County Board of Commissioners was held at 6:30 pm on Monday, July 18, 2016 in the Commissioners Meeting Room of the Bladen County Courthouse. Chairman Priest and Vice Chairman Bullock recognized the following employees for Years of Service:

Amy Burney DSS 5 years
Jessica Graham DSS 5 years
Martha Howe DSS 5 years
Cynthia Jones GIS 10 years
Shawn Caison Sheriff's Office 5 years
Daniel Clark Sheriff's Office 5 years
T. Morgan Johnson Sheriff's Office 10 years
Shirley Hunt EMS 5 years
Donna Taylor Division on Aging 5 years
Paula Warwick Division on Aging 5 years
Deborah Edwards Division on Aging 20 years
Wanda Wilson Health 25 years
Carol Strickland Health 30 years



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FEMA

AMERICA'S
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NATIONAL PREPAREDNESS MONTH 2016

Antique Tractors

Coming Soon

Bladen County Public Library

Elizabethtown, NC

Thursday September 22, 2016

6:00 PM

Fun For All Ages





Quick & Easy No-Cook Appetizer Presentation

Not much of a cook, but want a way to wow house guests? Planning a shower, but you want the food to be delicious, but quick & easy? Just love appetizers?

Join us for a quick & easy no-cook appetizer presentation where you will learn how to prepare at least three different appetizers as well as get to sample the end results!

**Main Library in Elizabethtown
Thursday, September 22
6:30pm**

**Pre-Registration is Required by Monday,
September 19 by calling 910-862-6990**



HAS PARTNERED WITH BRAINFUSE TO OFFER

**FREE
ONLINE
TUTORING
& SO MUCH MORE
FOR
STUDENTS
OF
ALL AGES**

Get Help Today!

Go to your library's website and click on
Brainfuse HelpNow to start!

<http://bladenco.libguides.com/home>

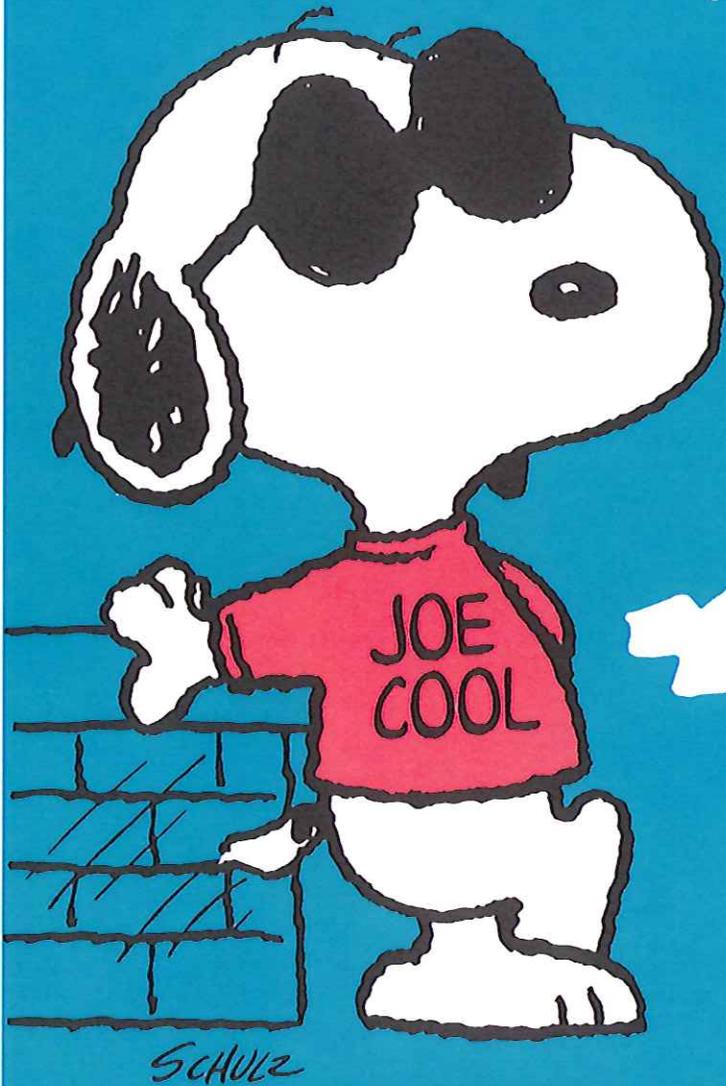


web: www.brainfuse.com e-mail: info@brainfuse.com phone: 1.866.BRAINFUSE

Bladen County Library card required

WHAT'S COOLER THAN BEING COOL?

HAVING A LIBRARY CARD.
GET YOURS TODAY!



September is Library Card Sign-up Month!

ilovelibraries.org/library-card

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September 2016

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
28	29	30	31	1	2	3
4	5 <u>Labor Day - Offices Closed</u>	6 <u>8:00am - Prayer Service</u> <u>6:30pm - Board of Commissioners Meeting</u>	7	8 <u>7pm - Bladen Fire Association, Bay Tree Fire Dept.</u>	9	10 <u>4pm - East Arcadia Senior Center Annual Banquet</u>
11	12	13	14	15 <u>11:30am - 1pm 50th Anniversary Celebration, SPT Manufacturing, 2100 West Broad Street, Elizabethtown</u>	16	17 <u>10am - Dublin Peanut Festival Parade & Festivities</u>
18	19 <u>6:30pm - Board of Commissioners Meeting</u>	20	21	22	23	24
25	26	27	28	29	30	1 <u>Auction Fundraiser, White Lake (to benefit Southeastern Carolina Crossroads)</u>