

Aid applications up; could be the economy

By Holly Edwards
County Editor

The number of Aid for Families with Dependent Children (AFDC) applications has increased 50 percent in one month, and Brunswick County social services director Jamie Orrock said he is not sure why.

But, Orrock told the board of social services Monday, he expects the trend to continue.

"With the high unemployment rate in this area, the number of applications will continue to grow as the population increases. We'll see the same trend with all the programs," he said.

One reason for the increase could be that it has become increasingly easy to apply and get approved for AFDC benefits, Orrock said. In order to process AFDC applications quickly, he said social workers are now taking the applicant's word at face value and are conducting fewer independent verifications -- which also increases the potential for fraud.

Orrock said he believes one of the worst changes has been that AFDC

workers can no longer conduct home visits to verify the number of family members without first scheduling an appointment.

"The state's efforts to protect client's rights has precluded our rights to do verifications," he said. "And each time the program is altered to accommodate more people, it gets easier to defraud the agency."

The social services department must process AFDC applications within 30 days in order to avoid being penalized by the state. As more and more AFDC applications come in, Orrock said the processing time will naturally increase. Currently, Brunswick County AFDC workers process applications in an average of 13 days, which is one of the fastest averages in the state.

If the number of AFDC applications continues to increase rapidly, Orrock said he will soon need more staff members to keep the processing time within the 30-day limit.

"Everybody's having to see more people, but it's not so bad they can't keep up," said AFDC supervisor Lois Carter. But, Carter added, if the

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Jamie Orrock
Agency director

number of applications continues to increase, it will become increasingly difficult for workers to keep up with the pace.

"Fall usually is the busiest time of

year for AFDC. A lot of that has to do with all the seasonal employment in the county," Carter said. "And in the winter months expenses may be higher, the kids might need some

new clothes."

In other business discussed by the board of social services Monday:

Orrock told the board that the number of children placed in foster care is increasing, and said that addictive drugs and alcohol play a role in most of these cases. Orrock also blamed the increase on the fact that relatives are becoming more reluctant to take custody of the children when parents abandon them.

"The grandmothers are fed up," he said. "They're just not going to do it anymore."

Statewide, Orrock said the number of children in foster care is exploding, and that the situation is becoming a very expensive proposition. In Brunswick County, foster parents are paid \$265 per month for each

child in their care.

The county's Job Opportunities and Basic Skills (JOBS) program has exceeded the state's 11-percent participation rate for the first time. There are currently 119 participants in the program, which is 18.68 percent of the total number of people in the county who are eligible to participate.

Orrock said he expects to soon have the preliminary results of the time management and employee reclassification study being performed for the social services department, and other county departments, by David M. Griffith and Associates of Raleigh.

"It will be interesting to see what a supposedly unbiased, outside agency has to say," Orrock said.

County revaluation underway

By Holly Edwards
County Editor

Revaluation of Brunswick County's 90,000 parcels of property has been steadily moving forward during the past several months, and field data collectors are now preparing to move into the Southport-Oak Island area, county tax supervisor Boyd Williamson said this week.

The county is paying Tax Management Associates of Charlotte \$834,200 to conduct the revaluation, which must be completed by 1994. Williamson said property owners should receive notices of the new assessed value of their property by next September.

"A year from now is when things go crazy," he said.

The last revaluation was conducted in 1986, and Williamson said he expects that some property will change dramatically in value.

Revaluations are required to be completed at least every eight years.

Data collectors evaluate about 40 to 50 parcels of property each day, and leave a dated marker on the door of each house they assess. They should not ask to come into the house, they should be able to produce identification and their vehicles should be marked, Williamson said. The main things they will be looking for, he said, are changes or improvements in the property.

Property owners who are not satisfied with the revaluation of their property can appeal the appraisal informally in a meeting with county officials and the data collector. Property owners who are still not happy can appeal formally to the Brunswick County Board of Equalization and Review. Beyond that, property owners can appeal to the N. C. Property Tax Commission and, beyond that, to the N. C. Court of Appeals.

Land use hearing Tuesday

A public workshop on Brunswick County's proposed 1992 Coastal Area Management Act (CAMA) land use plan update will be held Tuesday, October 6, at 6:30 p.m. in the public assembly building at the county government center near Bolivia.

The county's land use plan is required to be updated every five years. It provides information on the local economy, population growth, environmental features and land use trends. The purpose of the plan is to provide a foundation upon which local government can base its decisions on budgets, ordinances and zoning regulations so that land use conflicts can be kept to a minimum.

BUSINESS REVIEW

READER ADS CONTINUED

Universal Alarms Bill Wilson, Sales Representative

Burglary insurance is good—but burglary prevention is better. Universal Alarms is in the business of keeping burglars out of your home while you are away or asleep at night.

Universal Alarms is located at 6401 Windmill Way in Wilmington, phone 395-5460. Why not call them and let their security engineers custom design a combination burglar-fire alarm system for your home or business? They offer expert installation and maintenance by their own experienced technicians, and 24-hour emergency service is always available. Their home protection systems incorporate the most modern, sophisticated technology available today. They feature some of the finest crime deterrent systems to be had anywhere.

Don't take chances with your family's security. Contact the burglar alarms specialists at Universal Alarms and let them give you a complete, in-depth security analysis of your residential or commercial property. You will be amazed at how reasonably priced their systems are, and how quickly and easily it can be installed in your home.

Lanier Whaley & Company

Public accounting, as well as many other aspects of our present society, has changed dramatically in the last decade. A good accountant must now be many things to his or her clientele—a management advisor—in addition to providing the traditional audit, accounting and tax services.

The professionals at Lanier Whaley & Company believe in providing each and every one of these services in order to fulfill the everchanging needs of the businesses and private individuals. Their trained staff of professionals provide just the right combination of financial services and accounting skills. Their office is located in Wilmington in the Wachovia Bank Building, phone 763-0151. Lanier Whaley & Company has always been dedicated to personal attention and quality standards of service.

Using modern computer technology and the latest accounting techniques which their continuing education policy assures, they fill an ever-widening range of client needs. Whether you own a large or small business or simply need some personal financial planning, Lanier Whaley & Company is the accounting firm to see. They will put their years of experience and training to work for you.

Cox Christian Bookstore Linda & Frank Cox, Owners

Nothing makes a more beautiful or meaningful gift than a new Bible. For a gift that will give pleasure for years to come, visit Cox Christian Bookstore, conveniently located in Wilmington at 75 South Kerr Avenue, phone 762-2272, and also at 2222 South 16th Street, phone 392-0410.

Cox Christian Bookstore features a splendid selection of gift items that are always in good taste and always appreciated. They stock a beautiful collection of Bibles, books, tapes and CDs pictures, hymnals and church supplies, choir robes can be specially fitted and ordered. From stationery and cards to music, it can all be found at these well-appointed shops. You can surely find just the right gift for any friend, acquaintance or member of your family. Their inventory includes items that you'll be proud to give or proud to own. Along with the quality merchandise at sensible, down-to-earth prices, their friendly, personable sales staff is at your service for all your needs.

For all your Christian materials and supplies, it would be difficult to find any better place to shop than Cox Christian Bookstore. They invite you to stop in soon.

Fitness Tree & Lawn Service Stephen Snyder, Owner

A dying or dead tree can cause considerable damage and even present a threat to life in the event of a storm. Don't let this situation threaten your property and safety. Removing dangerous trees is a specialty of Fitness Tree & Lawn Service, located in Wilmington, phone 343-8016, and their services are available at very reasonable prices.

Complete tree and lawn care is available from Fitness Tree & Lawn Service, including spraying, tree and stump removal, cabling, pruning, topping, feeding, eging, trimming, shrubs and flowerbed installation. Fitness Tree & Lawn Service serves residential and commercial customers in the area, weekly and bi-weekly. Insurance work is gladly accepted. Both services are fully insured. Free estimates are given, and the firm makes its tree experts available anywhere in the area. They are completely equipped for any job, insuring the best work in the shortest time possible. Emergency storm calls are always given prompt attention.

Don't take chances with your life and property. Compare the prices and the services. Then let the professionals at Fitness Tree & Lawn Service take care of your trees and lawn. Their reputation is your guarantee of an excellent job.

Sykes Marine Captain Steve Sykes, Owner

Commercial and residential waterfront construction calls for the specialized knowledge and experience of a marine contractor. When your building plans include marine structures, call the local experts at Sykes Marine. Located on Long Beach Road in Southport, they may be reached by calling 457-0600.

Sykes Marine can send someone out to your property to give you a free, no-obligation estimate on the building or repair job you want done. When you contract with them, you can be sure that they will complete your job as quickly, efficiently and cost-effectively as possible. Their skilled workmen and supervisors are proud of the fine work they do and of the excellent reputation they have earned in the area. Sykes Marine constructs docks, floating docks, piers, bulkheads, decks and ramps for commercial or residential use. They provide other services such as pile driving and erosion control as well as boat salvage and boat repair. They can provide plans and designs for any marine structure, or they will work with your ideas and plans. Whatever your marine construction needs this season, this is the company to call.

Sykes Marine is fully insured and licensed, and has experience and expertise that you can count on. They invite you to contact them for a free estimate or for further information.

Worthington's Gallery & Frame Shop Hilary Worthington, Owner

Whether you are a serious collector or just browsing, you're sure to find something of interest at Worthington's Gallery & Frame Shop, located at the Independence Mall in Wilmington, phone 392-0044. The collection of fine traditional and contemporary art featured here includes the work of popular local artists as well as those of national and international renown, and are arranged in a truly complimentary fashion.

A friendly staff will show you oil paintings, etchings, watercolors and limited edition prints. Discover the diversity of artwork at Worthington's Gallery & Frame Shop. In their informal atmosphere, the collector and the art appreciator will enjoy the extensive selection on display. From old masters to contemporary art, you will be more than pleased with their diversified collection. They also offer expert custom framing for your purchase.

Whether you are just beginning your collection or are seeking to enrich one, Worthington's Gallery & Frame Shop is the gallery you won't want to miss. Service, reliability and integrity are a tradition at this well-respected gallery.

The Petite Quarter

We've all heard the familiar saying, "Good things come in small packages." There is no place where this statement has more meaning than at The Petite Quarter, located at 315 North Front Street in the Cotton Exchange in Wilmington, phone 251-1515. You will find an enticing collection of apparel expressly designed with the petite woman in mind here. Keeping this in mind, petite refers more to height than to size.

The woman under 5'4" will encounter the latest fashions and accessories to accentuate her smaller dimensions in sizes 2 thru 18 and small to extra-large. The Petite Quarter is a unique shop that provides the petite woman of this area with the current styles she expects and demands, with none of the problems associated with conventional sizing. Whether you're planning on updating your current wardrobe or creating an entirely new ensemble, the fashion-conscious staff at The Petite Quarter will gladly assist you in selecting just the right item.

Their exquisite selection of sportswear and dresses that can be classic to contemporary, casual to cocktail are made expressly for the woman who has found it difficult to find up-to-the-minute fashions in her size. If you're a "good thing in a small package", stop in at The Petite Quarter where fashion sophistication for the shorter woman is an enjoyable reality.

Oak Island Century Hardware & Tool Rental Bill Smith, Owner

Oak Island Century Hardware & Tool Rental, located at 200 Yaupon Drive in Yaupon Beach, phone 278-3832, has become known as the do-it-yourself headquarters in this community. Whatever your hardware requirements may be, you are sure to find what you want at this well stocked store. They feature hand tools, electrical and plumbing fixtures, power tools, kitchenware, lawn and garden supplies and much more, all at very reasonable prices. These and many other types of merchandise are offered in a wide variety of colors, sizes and grades.

Sooner or later, all of us must patronize a hardware store for something we need. At Oak Island Century Hardware & Tool Rental, the service is always courteous and quick, and you can count on their help in selecting the most appropriate items for any application. Whether you're building a cabinet or staining the backyard fence, their experienced personnel will assist you in selecting the proper tools and supplies. The management of this well-respected store likes to feel that its good reputation is based on personal service as well as durable hardware items.

Quality name brand products, sensible working man's prices and superior service are three great reasons to rely on Oak Island Century Hardware & Tool Rental for all your hardware needs. Why not stop in soon?

Manpower Temporary Services

Many business owners are now taking advantage of the temporary employment services offered by Manpower Temporary Services. Serving the entire area, they are located at 450 Fountain Drive in Wilmington, phone 791-5515. You will find a professional service here featuring dependable temporary personnel.

Many businesses experience personnel problems in tough economic times. Manpower Temporary Services can help you maintain stability and quality production in your business. All types of office and computer personnel and light industrial workers are available. Whatever your needs, Manpower Temporary Services will be glad to assist you with their qualified personnel and professional services, allowing you uninterrupted business operations. Each applicant is thoroughly screened, tested, briefed and placed in assignments according to previous training and experience as well as personal capabilities and talents. Manpower Temporary Services also offers a unique computer training program to both customers and temporaries. You can be assured that you will be provided with competent, experienced personnel.

For complete information on how your business can benefit from their personalized services, call them at 791-5515. Let these people-oriented professionals fill the gaps in your organization. Anyone interested in the flexibility and career benefits that temporary employment offers is also encouraged to call Manpower Temporary Services today. Their representatives keep the wheels of business running smoothly.

Comprehensive Home Health Care

Serving The Area For 12 Years

When it comes to health care for a loved one—there's no place like home! When a patient requires basic day-to-day nursing care or must have a prolonged convalescence, they are frequently happier and recover more quickly in their own home.

At Comprehensive Home Health Care, located in Supply on U.S. Highway 17, phone 754-8133, they are dedicated professionals specializing in providing quality home health care. They feature a complete in-the-home nursing service. RNs, physical and occupational therapists, speech pathologists, medical social workers and home health aides are all available. Their qualified, competent personnel are carefully screened and tested under the supervision of a Registered Nurse, and they are bonded and insured for your protection. Hourly and daily rates are available. If treatment is indicated, once referred by your physician, they will provide their professional services on a regular basis.

Comprehensive Home Health Care will handle your particular requirements in a professional, confidential manner. Every patient and family has unique needs, and the dedicated personnel here can provide them with an individualized care plan reflecting their needs as a whole. For that extra special attention you deserve, and that touch of excellence you expect, call Comprehensive Home Health Care. Remember, peace of mind begins with personal care.