In February I discovered what some of you already knew – my 4-H youth, leaders and parents are awesome! We hosted a very successful Sunday Social the end of last month and made over $300 to go in our program account for summer programs and camp! A big thank you to our County Council for helping plan and implement this exciting event. If you didn’t get an opportunity to come out and share in all the fun - you really missed out! Peggy Delano, 4-H Advisory Committee member and Tastefully Simple Consultant, guided us through the fundraising process and worked endlessly with me to get the best bang for our bucks! Thanks Peggy - you rock!

This newsletter is filled with lots of upcoming activities, as we kick off a busy spring and summer season! It is already time to start thinking about presentation topics for County Activity Day (June 2nd) and District Activity Day (June 22nd). Talk with your 4-H leader or let me know if you need help!

Don’t forget that you can always check our 4-H websites for more information OR you can call (252.633.1477) or email me (wendy_paschal@ncsu.edu) at any time.

http://cravencounty4h.shutterfly.com
http://craven.ces.ncsu.edu

Sincerely,
Ms. Wendy
Recycle Your Talents @ the New Bern Mall, April 20-22nd

This event is an original art show and competition featuring recyclable materials and YOUR imagination! So put your thinking caps on, gather up your recycled products and let those art skills shine! The competition is open to any youth ages 5-18. We hold this event as part of Craven County Clean Sweep’s efforts to increase recycling and anti-litter awareness in Eastern North Carolina.

Check-in is from 3pm-7pm at the New Bern Mall on Friday, April 20th. You must call to register your art with the 4-H office by Monday, April 16th. Materials used are restricted to recyclable products only. Please do not use any broken glass, although beach glass with round or flat edges will be accepted. Judging for the competition will take place after check-in closes on Friday evening. Projects will remain on display throughout the weekend and must be picked up on Sunday afternoon between 3-5pm. Any project NOT picked up will become the property of Craven County 4-H unless other arrangements have been made.

There are several age divisions and two categories:

Individual category: 5-8, 9-12, 13-18          Teams: 5-8, 9-12, 13-18, mixed

Prizes and ribbons will be awarded!!!

County Council’s Newest Venture

Craven County 4-H Council voted at their February meeting to begin recycling ink cartridges as a continuous fundraising effort for 4-H programs throughout the year. The concept was introduced by Green Bears Club member, Megan Mynster. She shared with the group the various options available for recycling ink cartridges, toner cartridges and electronics for cash. Steps are being taken to get this program set up through the 4-H office. Please start collecting your empty ink and toner cartridges now! We will get the details out as soon as everything is ready to roll. Way to go Megan ~ you are one cool cat!

The next County Council Meeting will be March 22nd, 6:30pm at the Carolina Grill (formerly Ham’s) in James City. Please let Ms. Wendy know you are coming by Wednesday afternoon at the latest. This meeting is open to any 4-H member or adult who is interested in planning our county events. Council members will be treated to their meal as will any guests as long as they pre-register. Each club is encouraged to send at least one representative every month.

Awards & Special Honors

Brither Quidley of Town & Country 4-H Saddle Club recently competed in the NC 4-H Horse Program Hippology Contest. Brither represented Town & Country 4-H in the junior division on March 3rd in Greensboro. Brither finished 2nd in the judging division and finished only one point behind the leader. The Hippology Contest gives participants an opportunity to blend knowledge and skills acquired in horse judging, bowl, demonstrations, public speaking, and showing into one activity. Congratulations Brither! Keep up the good work!
Destiny Oakley of New Bern has been honored for her exemplary volunteer service with a President's Volunteer Service Award. The award, which recognizes Americans of all ages who have volunteered significant amounts of their time to serve their communities and their country, was presented by The Prudential Spirit of Community Awards program on behalf of President Barack Obama. Destiny earned her award by participating as an at-large member with the Craven County 4-H program and serving on the County 4-H Council. Elected as Secretary of the Council for 2012, Destiny has been a constant presence since it began just two short years ago. Her creative ideas and innovative outlook has helped build the county program, which offers community clubs, school enrichment and special interest activities for youth ages 5-18 in Craven County. Last summer, Destiny taught a portion of Cloverbud Camp focusing on reading and illiteracy among elementary-age youth. The two-day camp was designed to offer youth ages 5-8 a variety of hands-on activities introducing them to the world of 4-H.

**2012 NC 4-H Citizenship Focus**

To inspire engaged citizenship and continued volunteerism among NC youth, NC 4-H Citizenship Focus provides hands-on workshops, panel discussions, distinguished speakers, and open discussion to help youth discover how government impacts your everyday life, and how you can impact government in return. You will learn about state government, how to work with public officials, hear from prominent NC officials, and visit legislators.

Before the conference, you will gather key information about youth issues, local government, and community needs in your county. At the conference, you will put this information together with your new knowledge to create a community-based citizen action plan to implement after you return home.

Participants are expected to:

- Be at least 14 years old as of January 1 of the current year
- Demonstrate interest in citizen involvement and/or local issues
- Have experience and/or interest in speaking before groups of peers
- Take a leadership role in their communities
- Wear business/corporate attire during most of the 3 days conference
- Attend the entire event Monday through Wednesday
- Gather key info about local issues and government prior to arrival
- Create and implement a local citizen action plan as a result of this conference.

Registration fees are **$150.00** per person and include lodging for two nights and meals during the conference. *Make checks payable to Craven County 4-H*. Fee is due by May 1st.

**Craven County 4-H DEADLINE for applications is APRIL 13.** Applicants are selected by the State 4-H staff to attend and after notification you have been selected, attendees will meet with the county 4-H agent to work on your Action Plan prior to the event. If you have questions or need assistance in completing the application, call the Extension office or email Ms. Wendy.
<table>
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<th>MARCH</th>
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| 9-10 SE District Teen Retreat, Wilmington NC | 1 Town & Country 4-H Saddle Club Meeting | 1 Green Bears 4-H Club, Brinson Elementary School, Media Center @ 5:45pm | June 2: County Activity Day  
June 11-13: NC Citizenship Focus |
| 15 MCCS Cherries Military 4-H MCCS Teen Military 4-H | 3 Green Bears 4-H Club, Brinson Elementary School, Media Center @ 5:45pm | 6 Town & Country 4-H Saddle Club business Meeting, 1pm | June 22: SED Activity Day, Lenoir County (You MUST qualify by participating in CAD before you can go to District) |
| 18 Town & Country Saddle 4-H Club Activity Meeting | 6 Good Friday Holiday, Extension Office Closed | 19 NC 4-H Horticulture Contest, Raleigh, NCSU Campus |  |
| 22 4-H County Council, 6:30pm, Location TBD | 9-10 Coastal Plains Livestock Show, Kinston | 19-20 SE District Horse Show, Williamson NC | July 9-11: Electric Congress, UNC-Wilmington |
| 11-13 Less Means More Water Conservation Days for 5th graders, Farmers’ Market | 28 Memorial Day Holiday, Extension Office Closed |  |
| 15 Town & Country 4-H Saddle Club Activity Meeting | NC Citizenship Focus Application & Payment Deadline |  |
| 20-22 Recycle Your Talents Art Competition @ New Bern Mall | |  |

Do you have an awesome idea for a summer program? Send Ms. Wendy your proposal by March 20th and receive $25 off any summer programs YOU register for in May. Be creative – it needs to be something that our group can easily do in one or two days and is not overly expensive! Remember our 2012 theme: Join the Revolution of Responsibility!

2012 Summer Program Schedules will be released in May. Don’t forget that registration is first-come, first-serve!