

HENDERSON COUNTY TAX COLLECTOR

200 NORTH GROVE STREET, SUITE 66

HENDERSONVILLE, NC 28792

PH: (828) 697-5595

FAX: (828) 698-6153

June 1, 2006

Henderson County Board of Commissioners
100 N. King Street
Hendersonville, NC 28792

Re: Tax Collector's Report to Commissioners – 06/05/06 Meeting

Please find outlined below collections information through May 31st for the 2005 bills mailed out on August 31st, as well as vehicle bills.

Annual Bills G01 Only:

2005 Total Charge: \$43,573,244.32
Payments & Releases: 42,625,119.23
Unpaid Taxes: 945,894.92
Percentage collected: 97.83%
(1/01/05– 5/31/06)

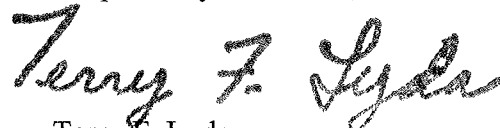
Motor Vehicle Bills G01 Only:

2005 Total Charge: \$4,391,768.78
Payments & Releases: 3,428,137.62
Unpaid Taxes: 962,502.34
Percentage collected: 78.08%
(1/01/05 – 5/31/06)

Fire Districts All Bills

2005 Total Charge: \$5,038,003.63
Payments & Releases: 4,805,072.76
Unpaid Taxes: 232,564.49
Percentage collected: 95.49%
(1/01/05 – 5/31/06)

Respectfully submitted,



Terry F. Lyda,
Henderson County Tax Collector

PUBLIC INPUT SIGN UP SHEET

6-5-04

PUBLIC INPUT SHALL BE LIMITED TO
THREE (3) MINUTES PER PERSON.

EACH PERSON SHOULD:

- (1) STATE YOUR NAME
- (2) IN WHAT AREA OF THE COUNTY YOU LIVE
- (3) SPEAK IN A CLEAR AND COURTEOUS MANNER.

Please Print:

NAME

ADDRESS

ISSUE

1. Maxwell Lacey 600 Carolina Village Rd West Asheville

✓ 2. HARRY WIDENER 212 Glen Echo Cir - Saluda, NC CHN-11

✓ 3. Mickey Marvin P.O. Box 1829, Hendersonville, CHN 11

✓ 4. NEIL BREER 222 CASTLETON LANE H.O. Lake CHAN 11

✓ 5. DAN AMES COUNTRY GARDENS 5 FLTE LEGAL

✓ 6. MARTHA SACHS 626 No. Rugby Rd. Land Development

✓ 7. ART COOLEY 145 BENTREE DR. CEANNER 11

✓ 8. Sharon Alexander Hebron Road Channel 11

9. _____

10. _____

11. _____

12. _____

13. _____

Hand-out
Art Cooley

CABLE SPEECH – JUNE 5, 2006

GOOD EVENING. I'M ART COOLEY, PRESIDENT AND GENERAL MANAGER OF WHKP RADIO. I HAVE COMMITTED MY REMARKS TO PAPER TONIGHT SINCE MY HIGH SCHOOL ENGLISH TEACH TOLD ME IN THE 12TH GRADE THAT I WAS VERBOSE. THEREFORE TONIGHT, MY 'TIMED REMARKS' ARE SHORT.

I STARTED WORKING AT WHKP FOR KERMIT EDNEY AND BEVO MIDDLETON IN 1957, UPON GRADUATION FROM UNC-CHAPEL HILL AND A STINT IN THE ARMY. SOME OF MY FRIENDS HAVE SAID THAT I CAN'T 'KEEP A JOB. DESPITE THEIR REMARKS, I THINK A YEAR SHY OF (50) YEARS WITH THE SAME COMPANY IS PRETTY SOLID WORK !

PRETTY MUCH EVERYTHING THAT CAN BE SAID ABOUT WHKP BEING ON MEDIACOM CHANNEL 11 – THE GOVERNMENT CHANNEL - HAS ALREADY BEEN SAID – EITHER IN NEWSPRINT, BY RADIO, OR IN COMMUNICATIONS TO OUR COUNTY COMMISSIONERS BY PHONE, FAX, EMAIL AND THOSE SIGNED UP TO SPEAK TONIGHT. I WON'T REVISIT THESE VARIOUS AREAS WHICH I AM SURE WILL BE MENTIONED BY OTHERS HERE TONIGHT.

MY PURPOSE IN BEING HERE TONIGHT – ON BEHALF OF RADIO HENDERSONVILLE, INC. OPERATORS OF WHKP - IS TO THANK THE HENDERSON COUNTY COMMISSIONERS, DATING BACK TO 1999, WHEN THEY ALLOWED WHKP TO PROGRAM THE BACKGROUND SOUND ON

CHANNEL 11 - THE PUBLIC ACCESS CHANNEL - WHICH WHKP STARTED IN 1969 AS CABLEVISION OF HENDERSONVILLE.

IN 1999 - THE COMMISSISONERS DISTINCTLY TOLD US IN PERSON AND BY LETTER - HOW IMPORTANT IT WAS TO HAVE WHKP ON THE GOVERNMENT ACCESS CHANNEL FOR COMMUNITY AWARENESS AND PARTICULARLY FOR EMERGENCY BROADCASTING.

IN THIS SAME YEAR OF 1999, COUNTY COMMISSIONERS WERE NOT USING A GOVERNMENT PUBLIC ACCESS CHANNEL AS WE KNOW IT TODAY - UNTIL WHKP RESEARCHED PUBLIC ACCESS CHANNELS IN BUNCOMBE COUNTY. AFTER OUR EXTENSIVE RESEARCH SHOWING COUNTY GOVERNMENT HOW THEY COULD REALLY DO A SERVICE FOR THE CITIZENS OF HENDERSON COUNTY BY IMPLEMENTING SOME OF THE SAME DEVICES - COUNTY GOVERNMENT, THROUGH THEN COUNTY MANAGER DAVID NICHOLSON -ASKED WHKP TO OPERATE THE CHANNEL AND TO PURCHASE SPECIALIZED EQUIPMENT TO MAKE THE LOCAL GOVERNMENT CHANNEL LOOK AS GOOD AS THOSE IN OUR NEIGHBORING COUNTY OF BUNCOMBE. AFTER STUDYING THE COUNTY INVITATION, WE ELECTED NOT TO PURCHASE A VARIETY OF TECHNICAL EQUIPMENT. FOR USE ON THE CHANNEL. WE TOLD THE COMMISSIONERS THAT WE FELT IT WOULD BE BETTER IF THE COUNTY PROGRAMMED THE CHANNEL AND USED WHKP IN THE BACKGROUND.

ALL HAS BEEN FINE WITH THIS ARRANGEMENT – AND IT HAS SERVED THE COUNTY GOVERNMENT AND THE CABLE SUBSCRIBERS WELL AND STILL DOES TO THIS VERY DAY.

IN SPITE OF ALL THE DIALOGUE AND ‘TREATENED LAWSUITS’ BY THE DEMOCRATIC PARTY, WE FEEL THAT WHKP SHOULD REMAIN THE PRIMARY ‘AUDIO’ PORTION OF THE GOVERNMENT CHANNEL

WE FEEL AFTER 60 YEARS OF PUBLIC SERVICE IN RADIO BROADCASTING HERE IN HENDERSON COUNTY, HAVING BROUGHT CABLE TELEVISION TO HENDERSON COUNTY IN 1969 AND BEING ON A CABLE CHANNEL EVERY YEAR – FOR THE LAST 37 YEARS - WE HAVE **EARNED THE RIGHT TO BE THE BACKGROUND RADIO STATION ON THE GOVERNMENT CHANNEL.** THERE IS NOT A BROADCASTER ANYWHERE THAT IS BETTER QUALIFIED. WHKP STANDS SECOND TO NONE IN THIS REGARD AND WE WILL GLADLY PUT THE WHKP RECORD UP AGAINST ANY AND ALL COMERS.

JUST BECAUSE ANOTHER BROADCASTER COMES TO TOWN AND DEMANDS THAT THE COUNTY COMMISSIONERS TAKE WHKP OFF CHANNEL 11 BECAUSE OF ‘SUPPOSED’ UNFAIR COMMERCIAL ADVANTAGE - AND IN ITS PLACE PROPOSES NOTHING MORE THAN A DIGITAL MUSAK-LIKE SERVICE ON CHANNEL 11 - IN MY OPINION IS NO REASON TO DENY THIS VERY IMPORTANT COMMUNITY SERVICE NOW BEING PROVIDED ON THE GOVERNMENT CHANNEL THAT HAS BEEN MANAGED SO ADEQUATELY BY WHKP. LET THEM EARN THE RIGHT TO DO SO AS WE

HAVE FOR THE PAST SIXTY YEARS. OFFICIALS OF THAT SAME RADIO STATION WANTING WHKP REMOVED FROM CHANNEL 11, STATED IN A PRIVATE MEETING, BEING CONDUCTED BY A HENDERSON COUNTY GOVERNMENT OFFICAL THAT THEY HAD NO INTENTIONS OF WANTING TO BE ON CHANNEL 11....BUT RATHER THEIR PURPOSE WAS TO GET WHKP REMOVED. I KNOW THAT BECAUSE I WAS IN THAT MEETING.

IN FACT, WE WERE ASKED BY THE COUNTY COMMISSIONERS IN JANUARY TO SUBMIT – ALONG WITH OTHER BROADCAST STATIONS – A PROPOSAL TO REMAIN ON CHANNEL 11 BY FEBRUARY 20TH OF THIS YEAR. WE DID THAT AND TO THIS DATE - MORE THAN THREE MONTHS LATER – WE HAVE HEARD NOTHING, EXCEPT AN ASIDE BY ONE COMMISSIONER WHO SAID – IN EFFECT - THAT OUR EFFORT IN DOING WHAT THE COMMISSIONERS ASKED US TO DO IN SUBMITTING A PROPOSAL WAS - ‘IN VAIN’.

WE AT WHKP ARE CONFUSED. CONFUSED THAT WE WOULD BE ASKED TO BE THE RADIO STATION OF RECORD FOR THE GOVERNMENT CHANNEL FOR THE PAST SEVEN YEARS - THEN ASKED TO MAKE A PROPOSAL TO REMAIN ON THE CHANNEL, AND AFTER DOING SO – TO HEAR NOTHING IN OVER THREE-MONTHS EXCEPT A COMMENT BY A COMMISSIONER THAT OUR EXTENSIVE ‘EXERCISE’ IN PUTTING THIS PROPOSAL TOGETHER FOR THE COUNTY COMMISSION WAS BASICALLY A ‘WASTE OF TIME’ BECAUSE IT WOULDN’T BE FAIR TO THE OTHER RADIO

STATION. FOLKS – THAT WAS THE PURPOSE OF THE PROPOSAL. TO
SELECT THE BEST QUALIFIED RADIO STATION.

LADIES AND GENTLEMEN – HENDERSON COUNTY COMMISSIONERS:
THE RESIDENTS OF HENDERSON COUNTY AND WHKP RADIO DESERVE
BETTER THAN THIS.

IN CLOSING - SINCE THE LEADING COMMUNICATIONS LAW FIRM IN
THE SOUTHEAST HAS TOLD WHKP AND THE HENDERSON COUNTY
COMMISSIONERS THAT WE ARE IN NO VIOLATION OF FEDERAL OR STATE
LAW BY RUNNING RELIGIOUS, POLITICAL AND COMMERCIAL CONTENT
ON THE GOVERNMENT CHANNEL – AND EVEN IN THE EVENT OF A
LAWSUIT, THEY FEEL CONFIDENT THE COUNTY WOULD WIN - IT SEEMS
TO ME THAT ALL THAT WOULD BE NECESSARY TO KEEP WHKP ON
CHANNEL 11 IS FOR THE COUNTY COMMISSIONERS TO MAKE MINOR
CHANGES IN THE POLICY SURROUNDING THE GOVERNMENT CHANNEL.

ON THE OTHER HAND, MANY TIMES THE SIMPLEST SOLUTION TO A
PROBLEM IS OVER-LOOKED.

THANK YOU VERY MUCH.

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Mr. Cosby".

7:00 pm PUBLIC HEARING SIGN UP SHEET

FY 2006 – 2007 Budget
Monday, June 5, 2006

Please Print

NAME:

ADDRESS:

- | | | |
|-------|-----------------------------------|---|
| ✓ 1. | DAVID SINK | 109 Chatsoga Run, Hendersonville |
| ✓ 2. | Noland Ramsey | 178 Broyles Rd. |
| ✓ 3. | FLEADING G. Lucas | 50 Squint Trail |
| ✓ 4. | Marian Lowry | 600 Carolina Village Rd. |
| ✓ 5. | Katie Breckheimer | 1393 Macedon Rd Saluda NC |
| ✓ 6. | Frances Fawcay Fairey | 462 Crescent |
| ✓ 7. | Martha Sacks | 626 No Rugby Rd. |
| ✓ 8. | Chal Pichey | 1928 Brevard Rd. |
| ✗ 9. | Dick Baird | 571 Hidden Lane |
| ✓ 10. | Ed Lewis | 585 Broadway St. H'ville |
| ✓ 11. | Linda Soble | 308 Connet Dr. H'ville 28791 |
| ✓ 12. | Ashley Oliver | 178 Old Zirconia Rd Zirconia, NC |
| ✓ 13. | Sarah Smith | |
| ✓ 14. | Mary K Singleton | 6 SPRINGSIDE DR, H'VILLE 28792 (DRIVE) |
| ✓ 15. | Kevin Weiss | 504 Presto Ln. Flat Rock |
| ✓ 16. | Charles A. Thomas | 108 Robin Crest Drive 28791 |
| ✓ 17. | Carrie Anne Blocker & Toni Wooten | 37 Derby Dr. W. H'ville 28739 / 24 Two Oaks Dr. Flat Rock |
| ✓ 18. | CLARK SMITH | 90 Blue Sky Ln.; H.Ville, 28792 |
| ✓ 19. | Wayne Nock | 1132 Orchard Road, Flat Rock 28731 |
| ✓ 20. | Charles Sneed | 134 Larchmont Dr. Hendersonville 28791 |
| ✓ 21. | Linda Flynn | 327 Alpine Dr. - H'ville 28791 |
| ✓ 22. | Jennifer Shelton | 5 Paddock Ct. Hendersonville 28791 |
| 23. | | |
| 24. | | |
| 25. | | |

Blue Ridge Community College -Flat Rock Campus
FY 2006-2007 Maintenance and Repair Needs
(listed in general priority order)

Maintenance Item	Building(s)	Cost	Comment
Boiler replacement	CE	30,000	
Electrical repair and renovation	Campus wide	5,000	
HVAC repair and renovation	Campus wide	20,000	Patton 1 st priority (repl)
Outdoor lighting repair	Campus wide	8,000	
Door replacement (interior)	Patton	20,000	
Emergency generator	TBD	13,000	Needed to operate tele-communications equip.
Install 2 AEDs	Campus Wide	2,000	Locations TBD
General building repair & renovation	Campus wide	28,000	interior office additions and modifications
Applied Tech lab renovations	Spearman	43,000	New program
Drainage improvements	Patton	5,000	Stormwater runoff
Fence repair	Campus wide	3,000	
Handrail replacement	Walk between ISC & A&S	15,000	replace wood with metal
Sidewalk repair	Patton	20,000	
Front Door Repair and Replacement	Killian & Sink	25,000	Includes automatic openers (handicapped)
Carpet cleaning	Campus wide	15,000	
Ceiling tile replacement	Campus wide	2,000	Mold eradication
Carpet replacement	Campus wide	85,000	
Construct new parking area	CE	5,000	for delivery trucks
Window frame replacement	CE, Spearman, Killian	48,000	Existing units unserviceable
Telecommunications equipment and infrastructure repair	Campus wide	20,000	
Building mold removal (exterior)	Patton, CE, A&S, GS	10,000	(power wash)
Greenhouse repairs	BRCC Greenhouse	3,000	
Renovate plumbing lab in	Metal Building	25,000	Ventilation & equip.
Plumbing repair and renovation	Campus wide	5,000	
Fire Alarm system replacement	Sink	75,000	
Painting (interior)	Campus wide	100,000	Incl. exterior trim
Tree trimming and removal	Campus wide	75,000	
Re-stripe parking lots	Patton parking lot	18,000	
Construct new road to access parking lot behind ISC building	ISC	15,000	Not part of TEDC project budget
Shop and garage modifications	Maintenance area	5,000	Incl. chair storage area
Landscaping improvements	GS, Patton, Sink,	7,000	
Structure replacement	Shelter	50,000	
Sub Total		\$ 800,000	Included in FY 2006-07 County Budget Request
Roof replacement	Patton, Killian, ISC, CE	500,000	
Repave parking lots & drives	Patton, Maintenance Area, Killian	350,000	
Window replacement	Campus wide	100,000	single to double pane for energy savings
Total All Projects		\$1,750,000	

Operational Support Needed for the Henderson County Educational Channel

Blue Ridge Community College is prepared to move forward to develop programming for the Educational Channel that has been proposed as part of the new franchise agreements with Mediacom. The new Technology Education and Development Center will have the studio facilities and head-end equipment needed to produce and distribute live and taped programming to the community. The college can begin to produce educational programs for the community immediately if the support staff were in place.

In the short run, these programs could start to run on the Government Channel (*Channel 11*) until Mediacom can provide a dedicated educational channel and connect the college to their system for direct broadcast. In the very near future, the video server for the system can be purchased and installed before the TEDC is completed to serve as a distribution point for educational programming. When the building is finished, this equipment will be moved into its permanent location in the center.

The staff of HCTV will be involved in planning and installing the video equipment in the new Technology Center and will have a very busy first year of production and preparation.

The requested positions and programming support identified in this budget are the critical elements needed to bring the system to life.

Operational Budget – Educational Channel and HCTV

Budget Item	New Funds Needed	Support Provided by BRCC (State Funds)
Executive Director for Educational Television		\$20,000
Production Manager / Faculty		\$50,000
Producer / Director	\$43,000	
Engineer / Technician Maintains Education and Government Channels	\$40,000	
Supplies	\$10,000	
Cable Programming Fees		\$5,000
Maintenance – Student Assistants	\$12,000	
TOTAL	\$125,000	\$95,000

hand out

5 June 2006

Mr. Chairman, Commissioners and County Staff my name is Fielding Lucas and I reside in Larry Young's District 3

I have three observations, on the budget. First, I applaud and support 100%, the establishment of an internal audit function. I feel very strongly that you must also take exceptional measures to insure the position's security by providing an audit committee of the board as its functional reporting line. In other words he(or she) would be reporting to the County Manager for work direction but audit reports themselves would go directly to the audit committee. I think this committee should be made up of two commissioners, the Director of Finance and four outsiders chosen for their relevant business experience. Perceived independence is crucial. Democratic North Carolina just elected a Republican State Auditor. Even Hubert Humphrey's super liberal Minnesota elected a Republican as Auditor almost always.

The "infernal" audit function can be used for both good and evil. It was of great help to me in pointing out some administrative flaws that needed fixing but I once found myself as the pawn in a political battle between my US bosses that I didn't even know existed. These things will happen but you should anticipate them as much as possible and protect the integrity and independence of the office.

My second observation relates to the School Board budget. It seems to me that this is all about micro-management of a financially dependent elected board. I believe the County Manager has it right. I would make exactly one change and that is to remove an apparent restriction in the capital outlay budget, the earmarked nature of \$775,000 for equipment and furniture. They are adult managers, they should set their own priorities. In other words they would receive just the two numbers, an operating budget and a total capital outlay budget you now show without qualifying comment. I think the County Manager's numbers are fine and keep us in the upper quartile of local contributors which is where I think we ought to be in respect of our asset base. It is inappropriate for you to be playing some kind of catch me if you can game with them trying to sneak things in this year that you disapproved of last year. It is also inappropriate and downright deceitful for them to try to use a total per student cost as a club on you when you have absolutely no say whatever in what the State or the Federal Government provides them. There is something called "economy of scale" and to even put small LEAs like Avery, Swain and Yancey counties on the same chart with Henderson insults the public's intelligence. I believe you should, separately, pledge to maintain a relative level with their peers, consistent with the growth of the county's economy and school age population. In effect put them on a kind of base pay and COLA in the same fashion and with the same kind of constraints most of their owners have. It seems to me that sale of surplus assets, and there are more than just Tuxedo that could be in the pipeline, will provide them a capital fund balance appropriate for their contingency purposes.

Third, I think it is a bad idea to start with a new County Manager's first budget balanced by the use of a fund balance appropriation. Recognizing that this is the beginning of a new era of budgeting philosophy for Henderson County, I am willing to compromise my political ideology by recommending adding one penny to the rate and setting up the excess in a contingency fund. There have been enough seemingly legitimate squawks to make me believe that you will be drawing down even more fund balance later. So squeeze the taxpayer a bit more now and save that hard earned fund balance. To me it is worth something now to force a budgetary culture change, which offers great promise for better long term fiscal responsibility.

Thank you for listening.

Fielding G. Lucas
50 Squirrel Trail, Hendersonville
828 891-5291, luke22@bellsouth.net

hand-out
Marion Lowey

TIMES-NEWS / SUNDAY, JUNE 4, 2006 9A

Op-Ed

County should pitch in child care dollars

Last month the number of children on a waiting list for child care in this county rose to 400.

Please take time to reflect on this situation and then see if you can support child care subsidy dollars at the local level.

If both parents are working and if they have one infant and one preschooler, the amount needed to provide quality child care each month for the two is \$920.

While gasoline, food and housing costs continue to rise, the salaries of these working families are essentially unchanged. The last time the minimum wage was changed was at the federal level in 1997 — nine years ago. Since that time, 17 states have raised the minimum wage.

What is the connection for the growing need for a child care subsidy in Henderson County? A survey conducted by the Housing Assistance Corporation in the spring of 2005 found 23 percent of Henderson County's households pay more than 50 percent of total income for housing costs. (Housing cost is considered "affordable" when it does not consume more than 30 percent of monthly income.)

Now imagine yourself in that household and you have less than 50 percent of your income available to



BE OUR GUEST

Lee Luebke

provide food, health care, transportation, taxes and miscellaneous costs.

Given these conditions, is there any wonder why the growing need for subsidy dollars?

I have often heard that we in the mountains have historically claimed to be rugged individualists. Yet when it comes to funding child care subsidies to support working parents, this county — like most others in the state — freely takes the federal and state dollars (last year the total amount was \$3,338,245). But Henderson County has not supported the need with local tax dollars except in 2003. That year, the county earmarked \$100,000 for child care subsidies.

What does all this really mean? For me, it means that this county needs a

groundswell to support working parents and their children. It means that the Board of Commissioners should restore the line item cut by the county manager.

That line item was \$405,288 to reduce the waiting list by about 20 percent of the children waiting for their working parents to receive vouchers. The amount would reduce the waiting list by 78 children, given the current number on the list.

And yes, the state of North Carolina and our legislators are working at the state level to increase the child care subsidy for working parents. This situation has grown to be a monumental issue — so big that both Gov. Easley and the Senate included \$20 million in their budget proposals for the subsidy.

If distributed equally among the 100 counties, assuming the budget is passed, the amount coming to Henderson County would be in the neighborhood of \$200,000.

Depending on whether the vouchers would be used by an infant or a preschooler, the actual number of additional children to be served by this new state money would be in the neighborhood of 30.

That still leaves 370 on the county's waiting list. Surely, if Henderson County val-

ues working parents and their children, we can justify an investment in our greatest resource, our children and our grandchildren.

I believe that if more dollars were provided as an investment in early childhood and quality child care subsidies for working parents, there may be fewer reports of maltreatment of children in this county.

The 2006 North Carolina Children's Index (admin@nccchild.org) gives the shocking statistics for Henderson County: 93.9 reports of abuse or neglect per 1,000 children, compared to the state average of 53.6 reports per 1,000.

I am not proposing that child care subsidy dollars will take care of all the needs of our children. Factor in affordable housing, an increase in the minimum wage and dollars for preschool education and then let's see if the number of staff needed to investigate maltreatment might actually be reduced and school readiness could actually increase.

The public hearing on the county budget is at 5 p.m. Monday. Please let your county commissioners know that you support a child care subsidy.

Lee Luebke is president of the League of Women Voters of Henderson County.



League of Women Voters of Henderson County

P.O. Box 2238

HENDERSONVILLE, NORTH CAROLINA 28793-2238

*hand-out
Marian Lowry*

April 12, 2006

Bill Moyer, Chair
Henderson County Board of Commissioners
100 North King Street
Hendersonville, NC 28792

Dear Mr. Moyer:

The League of Women Voters of Henderson County voted at its Board meeting Thursday, April 6, to support the dollar request of the DSS Board to provide local funds for child care subsidy to partner with the state and federal governments in their allocations to Henderson County (\$3,812, 272)..

The League's support is based on the following position adopted by the 1988 Convention, based on positions reached from 1969 through 1988. It reads: **Support programs, services and policies at all levels of government to expand the supply of affordable, quality child care for all who need it, in order to increase access to employment and to prevent and reduce poverty.**

As the members of our organization look at the big picture in Henderson County, the following factors seem to have some relationship to this growing need.

1. The waiting list of more than 400 children is at an all-time high which means that parents cannot go to work if there is not affordable child care available or if they do, their children are left to possible serious and vulnerable situations. (I need not remind you of the desperate situation recently in the news which brought this dire need to the public's attention.)
2. As the number of star ranked quality child care centers/homes increases, the number of vouchers available is adversely affected unless new dollars are added.
3. According to research completed by the Housing Assistance Corporation (HAC) in 2005, the average income of Henderson County actually fell in the last year. (Needs Assessment for Henderson County, Spring, 2005.)
4. Affordable homes in Henderson County are a piece of this complicated puzzle. HAC also reports that 23 % of the working families in Henderson County are paying nearly 50% of their income for shelter – often substandard. If affordable housing would be more available, the working family budget would have more dollars available for child care.

5. Even with the local subsidy request approved, approximately only 78 new children could be added from the working families. The increase in DSS custody and protection cases has severely restricted the dollars available to the working families.

While the realization of this issue needs to be brought to the front and center for the future of the economic development of this county, funding for child care subsidy at the local level is not a prevailing situation in North Carolina. The League realizes there are many pressures from a wide range of requests for funding, but stands firm to support this request as reasonable in light of the need based on sound data and the knowledge that children 0-5 are profoundly impacted in a positive way if quality day care can be provided. Furthermore, availability of child care is an economic factor that must be considered when businesses want to locate in Henderson County and seek to find employees. The bottom line is pay now or pay later.

I have long been an advocate for children in this county and I very much appreciate your serious consideration of this request. Please feel free to contact me if you have questions.

Sincerely,

Grace Poli
LWVHC Board Member

June 5, 2006

Hand-out
Katie
Breckheimer

Commissioners,

My name is Katie Breckheimer, and I represent myself this evening as a private citizen. Thank you for allowing me to speak during the public input phase of the 2006/07 county budget. I want to thank you for the improvements to our one recycling convenience center at the transfer station. I also want to thank the county manager for ^{proposing} including county office building recycling, an electronics and household hazardous waste collection event, and some funds for recycling education in this year's proposed budget. I feel like we have started down the right path toward more and better recycling in Henderson County's future, but it won't happen unless the County Commissioners direct the County Manager, the Solid Waste Department, and the Solid Waste Advisory Committee to pursue this goal. Improvements are needed to get us in line with other progressive NC counties. Waste reduction should be the focus, and recycling is one of the best ways to reduce the huge amount of natural resources we are wasting now.

Thank you.

hand-out
Martha Sachs

From: "Martha Sachs" <starwillow@bellsouth.net>
Sent: June 05, 2006 4:31 PM
Subject: Comments to Commissioners

Comments to Commissioners
June 5, 2006

On
Need for Child Care Vouchers *and* Possible Sources of Revenue

Assuming that all of you have read the Op-Ed article by Lee Luebbe in yesterday's edition of the Times-News, I will not elaborate on the following figures presented :

- There were 400 children on the waiting list last month
- 2 working parents with an infant & a pre-schooler would require \$920 per month for quality child care
- 23% of Henderson County households pay more than 50% of their income just to cover housing costs
- The \$405,288 line item cut from the budget could reduce the waiting list by 78 children
- If our county were to receive its fair share of the \$20 million proposed in the state budget, the \$200,000 would allow us to serve approximately 30 children – leaving 370 still on the waiting list
- Proper care of these children might reduce reports of abuse and neglect, which are now almost twice as high in Henderson County as the state average (which is positively shameful for one of the wealthiest counties in the state)

Now, the question is “How can we meet the additional costs the county has a moral obligation to incur, without having to raise property taxes”? First of all we must plan for both expenditures and income looking ahead 10 -20 years , instead of responding to the crises of the moment.

- With almost 1/3 of Henderson County earning less than \$25,000 per year, and many on fixed incomes, raising property taxes is not an adequate answer.
- With hundreds of new homes being built in subdivisions around the county, development fees that would cover increased need for county services and schools would be appropriate, and would **not** slow development. ^(impact)

There is also a source of **tremendous** savings to our operations budget which the county has consistently overlooked! With millions of dollars appropriated for capital construction for our schools, BRCC, and other buildings, you have ignored the hundreds of thousand of dollars that could be saved each year in heating, cooling and lighting costs if we required all county construction to be energy efficient. A Raleigh design firm which has built over 4,700 energy-efficient, environmentally healthy buildings in the past 25 years has achieved the following:

- Saved over \$76.5 million dollars and 3 trillion BTUs
- These savings eliminated 600,000 tons of carbon dioxide, and if converted to oil, reduced oil

imports by the equivalent of 22.2 million gallons

- Their schools have averaged 10% below budget and saved over \$2.8million in energy bills **each year**
- Students with the most “daylighting” (rather than fluorescent) progressed 20% faster on math tests and 26% faster on reading – compared to those students with the least.

In sum, with a little more forethought, some imaginative, out-of-the-box thinking and the determination to do what is morally correct for all citizens of Henderson County, we can have our cake and eat it too.

Martha Sachs
626 North Rugby Road
Hendersonville, 28791 891-4542

hand-out
Clark Smith

Balfour Education Center
Community Short Term Opportunity Program (CSTOP)
2529 Asheville Highway
Hendersonville, NC 28792

June 5, 2006

CSTOP Fact Sheet

- Henderson County Public Schools implemented CSTOP at the beginning of the 2004/2005 school year. The countywide program serves middle and high school students who receive Out of School Suspension (OSS) on a short term basis (1 to 10 days).
- At the conclusion of the 2004/2005 school year, CSTOP served a total of 562 different students. A total of 2,268 days were salvaged through CSTOP.
- Students who participate in CSTOP receive counseling, character education, NOVANET computer based learning, and tutoring. Students who are referred for fighting undergo conflict resolution training and/or mediation.
- Regarding the 2005/2006 school year, the program has served a total of 592 separate students who were able to salvage a total of 2,505 days (as of June 5, 2006).
- In two school years of operation, CSTOP has been responsible for serving a total of 1,154 students. The program has saved a total of 4,773 attendance days for our students. That is 4,773 days that students were actively engaged in an educational and structured school environment as opposed to staying home, hanging out on the streets, or sleeping late.