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**COUNTY GOVERNMENT MONTH SPOTLIGHTS SERVICES
PROMOTING AND SUPPORTING “HEALTHY COUNTIES, HEALTHY FAMILIES”**

In an effort to raise awareness about the services county government provides, Catawba County is participating in National County Government Month throughout April 2012. The month-long event is sponsored by the National Association of Counties (NACo) and aims to provide insight to residents and businesses about the roles and responsibilities of county government.

This year’s theme of “Healthy Counties, Healthy Families” will highlight county programs that focus on essential health care services, recreation programs, and ways that county services improve the quality of life for people in Catawba County. Although a number of County agencies and their programs will be focused on during the month, Catawba County Public Health is one of the key County agencies promoting and supporting “Healthy Counties”.

The Catawba County Board of Commissioners will issue a proclamation at its meeting at 9:30 a.m. on Monday April 2, at the 1924 Courthouse at 30 North College Avenue in Newton, officially proclaiming the month of April as National County Government Month in Catawba County.

“In Catawba County, we offer a variety of services and programs that promote, assure, and protect the health of our residents,” said Doug Urland, Health Director, Catawba County Public Health. “We hope local residents will take advantage of upcoming events to learn how county government helps contribute to the health of our community.”

Catawba County continually offers programs and services that promote healthy families and counties, such as “Give Your Heart A Healthy Beat”, the work of Alcohol and Substance Abuse Prevention of Catawba County to prevent underage drinking, Eat Smart, Move More Catawba County’s work to prevent childhood obesity, the Carolina Yards and Neighborhoods program, nature walks and other activities at the County’s three parks, the Serve Safe Food Certification course, and much more.

A list of all that will be featured during County Government Month will be noted on a special calendar on the County’s website. These include workshops and community outreach events in which County agencies will be participating. All events are free and open to the public, although some require advance registration as noted on the calendar. The calendar of events may be found at <http://www.catawbacountync.gov/calendar/CGM.asp>.

To learn more about County Government Month or about the services provided by Catawba County, please visit www.catawbacountync.gov.

