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# Obituaries

## Mrs. Brenda H. Beamer

Mrs. Brenda H. Beamer, 68, passed away December 19, 2013, at CMC Union. Funeral Services will be held at 2 p.m. on Monday December 23, 2013, at Mt. Carmel Baptist Church. She was the daughter of the late Horace and Hallie Trull Hill. She was a retired secretary for the Anson County Board of Education Maintenance Department. She is survived by her husband Bill Beamer; son Mr. Greg Beamer (Tricia) of Peachland; granddaughter

Makenzie Beamer; and brothers, Brackie Hill of Surfside Beach, SC and Clinton Hill of Peachland.

Memorials may be made to the American Cancer Society, PO Box 22718, Oklahoma City, OK 73123-1718.

For online condolences and the family page visit [morganandsonfuneral-home.com](http://morganandsonfuneral-home.com).

## Mrs. Marie Ramirez

Mrs. Marie Ramirez, 68, passed away on December 19, 2013, at her residence.

Mrs. Ramirez was born on May 11, 1945, in Mexico to the late Efen and Maria Rojas Ramirez. She was

preceded in death by her husband Consuelo Flores Ramirez.

Her Funeral Mass will be held at 10 a.m. on Thursday, December 26, 2013, at Our Lady of Lourdes Catholic Church in Monroe. Interment will follow in the Marshville City Cemetery.

She is survived by her sons, Elias Ramirez, Socorro Ramirez, Ramiro Ramirez, Antonio Ramirez, Luis Ramirez and Jose Javier Ramirez; and daughters, Carolina Ramirez, Consuelo Ramirez, Maria Ramirez and Olga Lidia Ramirez.

For online condolences and the family page visit [morganandsonfuneral-home.com](http://morganandsonfuneral-home.com).

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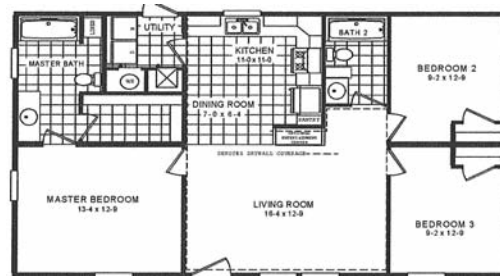
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## Extension Notes Quick Holiday Spruce-Ups

Seems like the holidays roll around quicker every year. This year seems even faster, since Thanksgiving was so late and we missed a weekend. While everything else seems running to full tilt, here are a few tips from The American Cleaning Institute that can help you keep from getting so harried this year and next year too.

Get a handle on the holidays with great ideas for keeping dirt and chaos under control. Put out the welcome mat. To welcome the company in and keep the dirt out, install easy-to-clean mats at all the exterior doors.

Dust the decorations. Unpacking those holiday decorations can mean some unexpected cleaning. Depending on the item, the fastest way to get rid of dust on your decorations might be some gentle action with a disposable duster or wipe, or vacuum using your soft dusting brush attachment.

Sparkle plenty! Clean windows and mirrors are a beautiful reflection of your holiday décor. Keep pre-moistened window wipes on hand to make smudges disappear in a wink. Besides glass, these are generally safe to use on chrome, stainless steel, plastic and vinyl surfaces.

Plan ahead. If properly stored, holiday decorations will not need pre-season cleaning next year. As you take them down, clean them and then store them in closed bins, boxes or plastic bags that are clearly marked. If possible, group the decorations in categories like "dining room," "mantel," "front door," etc. That way, you can avoid the decorating frenzy by tackling your home one area at a time.

Don't reinvent the wheel! If you particularly like the way you have decorated the door, the mantel, the staircase, etc. this year, take a picture and pack the photo away with the appropriate decorations.

Soak 'em. When you set the holiday table with your best linens, it is a natural invitation for spots and stains. For small stains, keep a stain stick or stain wipes close at hand. Or, once the meal is over, clear the table and pretreat any stains with a prewash stain remover. Fill the washing machine with soap, warm water and bleach that is safe for the fabric, toss the linens in, and let them soak overnight. If you missed a stain, soaking will generally remove it. Run the wash cycle in the morning.

Multiply your cleaning supplies. Now is the time to stock up on your favorite cleaning supplies in small, refillable sizes and/or easy-to-use configurations that can be stored in multiple, convenient locations. Think creatively. For example, during the holiday season, it might make sense to have a cache of window wipes, an electrostatic dust cloth, a roll of paper towels and an all-purpose spray cleaner tucked away in a cupboard in the family room. The less time you have to spend fetching cleaning supplies, the faster and easier it is to get the job done.

*By Janine Rywak, County Extension Director*

## Respiratory Etiquette - Stop Germs at the Source

Here are a few tips for those suffering from a cold, to not impose on others around them.

- 1) Cover your mouth and nose with a tissue or your upper sleeve when you cough or sneeze.
- 2) Do not cover your mouth or nose with your hands when you sneeze.
- 3) Always place your used tissue in the waste basket.
- 4) You may be asked to put on a surgical mask to protect others.
- 5) Coughing persons should sit at least three feet away from others.
- 6) Regularly wash your hands with soap and water or clean with alcohol-based hand cleaner.

## The Survey Says: More North Carolina Drivers Buckle Up

High visibility enforcement, media campaign "click" with motorists

This year, North Carolina celebrates the 20th anniversary of "Click It or Ticket," the nation's first seat belt safety campaign. That celebration continues with the release of the state's 2013 seat belt survey numbers. The Governor's Highway Safety Program shows 88.6 percent of North Carolinians are buckling up – a 1.1 percent increase from the 2012 survey.

"This is a strong step forward for highway safety in our state," said Don Nail, director of the Governor's Highway Safety Program. "It's a testament that high visibility enforcement combined with our 'Click It or Ticket' campaign work, and we're saving lives as a result."

A successful public awareness campaign ran in conjunction with "Click It or Ticket" enforcement. The Governor's Highway Safety Program produced and aired a new public service announcement, "The Sound of Safety," on television and radio stations statewide. It was also viewed 2,100 times on YouTube and downloaded by 24 cable access stations.

Social media was another vital component in reaching the target demographic of 18-34 year olds. The Governor's Highway Safety Program asked citizens to snap a picture of themselves buckled up while parked – called a "#SafetySelfie" – and share it on Twitter, Facebook, Pinterest and Instagram. Gov. Pat McCrory, NCDOT Secretary Tony Tata and media personalities comprise some of the 60 participants who shared their "#SafetySelfie." In all, the interactive effort reached 1.8 million people on social media.

Stepped-up enforcement, education and the public awareness campaign together made a positive impact on seat belt usage, especially in Columbus County. It saw the biggest improvement – jumping to 90.7 percent this year from 77.9 percent in 2012.

Caldwell and Catawba counties had the highest seat belt usage at 93.8 percent. Mecklenburg County had a seat belt usage rate of 93.4 percent, with Wake County at 88.3 percent. Robeson County had the lowest seat belt usage rate at 82.2 percent.

Female drivers buckled up more often at a rate of 92.4 percent while 87.9 percent of men clicked their seat belts. The youngest drivers on North Carolina highways, ages 16-24, buckled up the least at 85.5 percent.

The annual seat belt survey was conducted throughout the month of June at 120 sites in 15 counties across the state. Trained spotters observed driver and front seat passengers of stopped or nearly stopped vehicles. Observation data was collected during rush hours (weekdays between 7 a.m. and 9 a.m. or 3:30 p.m. and 6 p.m.), non-rush hours (weekdays between 9 a.m. and 3:30 p.m.) and on weekends (Saturday or Sunday between 7 a.m. and 6 p.m.). The Research Triangle Institute certified the survey results last week.

The Research Triangle Institute selects counties that offer a representative sample of North Carolina, based on a variety of criteria including county size and fatality rate.

For more information and survey county results, contact Heather Jeffreys at (919) 707-2665, or visit the GHSP website [www.ncdot.gov/programs/GHSP](http://www.ncdot.gov/programs/GHSP).

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