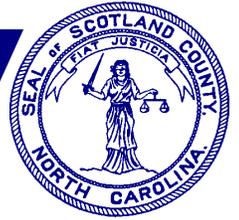


Scotland County

Monthly



APRIL 2012

A newsletter for the Scotland County community

Small Business Innovation Center groundbreaking launches construction

A groundbreaking on an eight-acre tract of land at the intersection of US 401 Bypass and Heck Norton Road will lead to a ribbon cutting for the Small Business Innovation Center before the end of 2012.

Planning for the center was two years in the making thanks to the cooperative efforts of the Scotland County Economic Development Corporation (SCEDC), Scotland County, City of Laurinburg and Richmond Community College (RCC).

SCEDC Chair Joyce McDow credited success of the project to dedicated community support and true partnerships.

McDow said, "This is a great day, a milestone for our region with the building of a center that will nurture small businesses in a one-stop service that is consumer-friendly."

The project is funded by grants including \$800,000 from the Economic Development Administration, \$200,000 from the GoldenLEAF Foundation and \$85,000 from the Rural Center.

"The Small Business Innovation Center, when constructed, will house start-up companies and entrepreneurs within Scotland County," said Economic Developer Greg Icard. "In addition to reduced lease rates for space, other services will be provided to ensure success of companies in the business incubator with partners such as Richmond Community College and the Small Business Center."



Breaking ground at the site of the Business Innovation Center are, left to right, Economic Development Corporation members and support staff Bob Davis, Curtis Leak, Greg Icard, Tommy Parker, Joyce McDow, Kevin Patterson, Carol McCall and Ed Burchins.

[see Center, page 4](#)

Local issues discussed with legislators

The Commissioners met informally with Senator Bill Purcell and Representatives Garland Pierce and Ken Goodman to discuss issues of statewide and local concern that would impact the budget.

The three State representatives shared the Commissioners' budgetary concerns and agreed to support two bills in the upcoming short session that would generate more revenue for the County.

One bill, if passed, would allow the County to issue permits for Internet sweepstakes operations that would generate some level of profit. Chairman Bob Davis said, "It would level the playing field because sweepstakes operations in the City might choose not to pay a \$10,000 fee and move into the County where they would pay nothing."

County Manager Kevin Patterson added, "We're not asking the State for more money, we are just asking the State to allow counties to issue permits."

"An Internet sweepstakes business that cannot afford the permit fee is not likely to make a profit off its business," Patterson explained. "It also would allow the County to actually know where the operations are located."

[see Budget, page 2](#)

Veteran Services to relocate in June

The Veteran Services Office will move in early June from its Atkinson Street location to 507 West Covington Street.

County Manager Kevin Patterson said one reason for the move is to gain some efficiencies. "You have separate overhead and separate costs for maintaining a separate office building."

He added that moving Veteran Services Officer Mildred Williams to 507 West Covington Street would offset some of the telephone, utilities and Internet costs.

Patterson said the move would provide some conveniences for Williams, who is the only person in the office. "Whenever she (Williams) has to go to the Post Office or do any kind of business outside of her office, the

whole building is closed."

Patterson added that at 507 West Covington Street there would be other staff, when Williams is away, for her clients to actually speak to but not necessarily handle the business of the office.

The County Manager said total operating budget for the Veteran Services Office is \$3,000. The move would save an estimated \$600 to \$800 a year, which is "a significant portion of that budget."

Parks and Recreation, which has a longterm lease with American Legion and the park, will not be affected by the move.

To make the transition as smooth as possible, Williams is already discussing the change with clients.

Once specific dates are targeted for the move to occur, signs will be posted at the Atkinson Street building and the media will be alerted.

A guide to Election Day

by Dell Parker, Elections

Polling places on Election Day, Tuesday, May 8, will open at 6:30 a.m. and will remain open until 7:30 p.m.

Upon arriving at your assigned polling place you will be asked to state your name, address and party affiliation.

Since this is a Primary, if you are registered as a Democrat, you will be voting the Democratic ballot style. If you are registered as a Republican you will be voting the Republican ballot style. If you are registered as a Libertarian you will be required to vote the Libertarian ballot style.

If you are registered as unaffiliated you will have the choice as to which ballot style you would like to vote, and you may choose the Democratic, Republican, Libertarian or Unaffiliated ballot style.

Under no circumstances can an unaffiliated voter vote for part Democratic, part Republican and part Libertarian.

Each registered unaffiliated voter must make a choice of one ballot style. Just keep in mind that if you are registered as an unaffiliated voter and there is a second primary, you would have to vote the same party ballot as you did during the first primary.

View sample ballots at www.scotlandcounty.org. Click on the Elections tab under Departments.

Once you are on the Elections site, click the 2012 Presidential Information link on the left-hand side and the sample ballots will be listed on the next page.

In reviewing the sample ballots you will notice that there are two Democratic styles, two Republican styles and two Libertarian styles.

Each style is explained below:

D001 — Ballots for all registered Democrats that are over the age of 17.

D002 — Ballots for all registered Democrats that are 17 but will be 18 on or before November 6, 2012.

R003 — Ballots for all registered Republicans that are over the age of 17.

R004 — Ballots for all registered Republicans that are 17 but will be 18 on or before November 6, 2012.

L005 — Ballots for all registered Libertarians that are over the age of 17.

L006 — Ballots for all registered Libertarians that are 17 but will be 18 on or before November 6, 2012.

N007 — Ballots for registered unaffiliated voters.

Up until Election Day, residents have opportunity to vote early 8 a.m. to 5 p.m., May 1 to May 4, and 8 a.m. to 1 p.m. May 5. Early vote is at the Elections Office, 231 East Cronly Street.

Cooperative Extension reports on extensive reach into community

Cooperative Extension's educational and service-oriented reach into the community is a comprehensive one.

The success of its 2011 community activities was shared with 40 State and local officials who attended the Cooperative Extension Report to the People April 19.

In all, the Scotland County agency had face-to-face or telephone contact with people in the community 15,300 times and offered 500 educational programs. It helped 45 businesses and farms improve operations. It attracted the assistance of 225 volunteers and brought in \$30,000 in user fees and donations and \$36,000 in program grants.

Extension Director Randy Wood described the \$148,000 the agency received from the County in fiscal year 2011/2012 as just a tiny piece of the \$37 million pie.

Wood said of Cooperative Extension, which also receives State and federal funds, "We feel we are a very good investment."

Serving as many people as possible with efficiency is important, Wood indicated. "This is a non-mandated agency funded by the taxpayers, and we're very conscious of that."

Presentations were made on behalf of 4-H Youth Development, 4-H Expanded Food and Nutrition Program, Family and Consumer Science, Community Garden and poultry, agriculture and livestock services.

Some education and information activities provided included cooking and exercise classes for youth, parenting programs, financial management, chronic disease risk reduction, resolution of insect and drought issues and horticulture.

Budget concerns addressed

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The sale of pine straw from the more than 20,000 acres of gamelands owned by the State could provide another source of revenue for the County.

The Commissioners proposed through the passage of a local bill that the State give the County authority to lease the gamelands for the sale of pine straw.

Patterson suggested the County could develop a land management plan and sell leases to private businesses in order to generate revenue and improve the health and wildlife of the gamelands at the same time.

While meeting with the legislators the Commissioners also asked for consideration in restoring lottery funds for school capital projects and debt service, giving counties flexibility in the delivery of human services to citizens and restoring mental health funding.

Other areas of concern also were discussed, which would transfer the cost of programs to counties like the maintenance of secondary roads. Patterson said it would cost the County more than \$3 million and up to 25 cents on the tax rate to assume responsibility for secondary road maintenance.

Reduction in Home and Community Care Block Grant funds for Scotland Place Senior Center was addressed. The Commissioners said Scotland Place might be penalized for doing an excellent job with limited resources.

Another concern involves proposed reduction by the federal government of block grant funding for child and adult protective services. "Because the programs are mandated, fund reductions would shift the expense to the County," Patterson said. "We just hope the State will do no harm to counties this year."



The Wagram Community Garden is featured in a NC State video on YouTube.

Library gets approval for computer use fees

The Board of Commissioners approved three changes in the Scotland Memorial Library fee schedule, one of which assesses a computer use fee of \$1 per 30 minutes to people who don't have a library card.

Library Director Leon Gyles explained, "It cost over \$22,000 a year for the internet at the library, which is paid for by the taxpayers of Scotland County."

He added, "If you live in the County and can show proper identification, a library card is free. If you live in the State you can buy an annual library card for \$5 or \$25 if you live outside the State."

Gyles said the fee is not unreasonable. "At the Southern Pines library they limit guest computer use to one hour. The charges range from \$3 for the first 15 minutes to \$10 for the complete hour."

Gyles said he hopes the new fee will encourage computer users to get a library card.

Also approved by the Commissioners at the request of the library was Food 4 Fines where the donation of a each canned good is equivalent to \$1 worth of fines.

"This fee will be used only on special occasions for a very limited time to encourage patrons to return materials and support the the Church Community Services Food Bank," Gyles said.

Gyles said Scotland County Memorial Library is one of just a handful of libraries in the State that takes advantage of a Food 4 Fines program.

"Some people would rather pay with food. The last time we ran this program, we raised over 130 food items for the Church Community Services Food Bank."

The third item approved by the Commissioners will allow the library to clean DVDs for patrons at \$2 a disc.

ICS participation promotes funding eligibility for agencies

Scotland County Emergency Management sponsored two Incident Command System (ICS) classes April 2 at the RCC Honeycutt Center. The classes, ICS 300 and ICS 400, were taught by Randy McKinney, a retired EM Coordinator from Western North Carolina.

28 people registered and attended the classes including employees with the N.C. Forestry Service in Silva and a County Commissioner from Ocean Isle Beach in Brunswick County. Locally, staff from the Health Department, Laurinburg Fire and Police departments, Scotland County EMS, Richmond County EM, UNC-Pembroke and the Fayetteville Police Department attended.

The classes are mandated by FEMA for emergency response and public safety agencies in order to meet eligibility for certain federal grant funding.

The courses gave each participant 30 hours of Continuing Education credit for attending all four days and passing the course test. The cost of the instructor and course materials was covered by an Emergency Management grant for training that was awarded to Scotland County in 2011 by NCEM.

"The Honeycutt Center provided an excellent classroom setting to hold these classes," said EMS Director Roylin Hammond. "Scotland County EM plans to schedule additional classes similar to these when the Honeycutt Center is available in the future."

News of Note

AARP tax aide program files record returns

All AARP 2011 tax aide returns were accepted or converted to paper for self filing. The unofficial count, 283 federal returns, were prepared and filed, a 48 percent increase from 183 returns in 2010. The free program is made possible through AARP, Scotland County Memorial Library and Parks and Recreation. Tax assistance was provided at the Library from February through the mid-April filing deadline. This is the fourth consecutive year free tax filing assistance was offered. Each year the number of returns prepared and filed increased with 153 returns processed in 2008 and 177 in 2009. AARP volunteers also answered question for people who planned to file their own returns.

Book sale monies set aside for capital projects

Scotland County Memorial Library earned \$563 for its capital improvement fund from its spring book sale April 14. The four-hour event provided customers numerous tables filled with books in all categories as well as DVDs, CDs and audiobooks. If you missed it, the Library has a permanent table books for sale table with most prices just \$1 a book.

Operation Medicine Drop numbers improve

Operation Medicine Drop collected 20,401, up from 19,264 collected in 2011. The breakdown included controlled substances, 1,550 and prescription drugs, 10,976.75. Over the counter collections doubled in 2012 at 6990.75, compared to 3,443 in 2011. The unknown category nearly doubled from 458 collected to 883.50 in 2012. Operation Medicine Drop was sponsored by the Laurinburg Police Department, the Sheriff's Department and Mid-Carolina's Region and NC Safe Kids. This is the second year Operation Medicine Drop partnered with the Cooperative Extension/ECA-hosted Shred-It event at the Scotland High School parking lot. Operation Medicine Drop is a statewide initiative to provide people with a safe way to dispose of old or unneeded prescription and over-the-counter medications.

Our condolences to ... **Johnny Brown**, DSS, on the passing of his sister, Betty Robinson; Commissioner **John Alford** on the March 21 passing of his mother, Carletha Alford; **Sandra Leonard** and **Kim Villanueva**, DSS, on the April 19 of their mother and grandmother Frances Reeder.



Randy McKinney, standing center, speaks with ICS participants.

Washington Park students recognized



Text and photos by Martha Norfleet, Soil and Water

Three Washington Park Elementary School students received recognition and awards for participation in a poster contest sponsored by Scotland Soil and Water Conservation District.

Third grader Jaheim McRae, fourth grader Madeline Litty and fifth grader Brett Gibson all received \$15 WalMart gift cards for first place entries in the district contest.

The district contest included all elementary schools within Scotland County. Winning posters were submitted to the Area VII Association of Soil and Water Conservation Districts competition.

Area VII included entries from elementary schools in eight counties — Columbus, Robeson, Scotland, Richmond, Cumberland, Hoke, Harnett and Sampson.

McRae and Litty both were awarded a certificate for winning third place honors for third and fourth grades respectively in the Area VII contest.

Gibson's poster won first place honors for the fifth grade, and he was awarded a certificate and a \$30 check. His poster will compete in the State Association of Soil and Water Conservation Districts competition in May.

Pictured are Jaheim McRae and Madeline Litty displaying their posters, and Brett Gibson receiving his Area VII awards from Scotland Conservation Director Amy Richburg.

K-9 unit dogs get free wellness checks

Text and photo by Roylin Hammond, EMS



A member of the MDVSS performs a wellness check on a dog used by K-9 officers.

Department had their dogs checked and evaluated for wellness at no cost to the local agencies. It was a win-win situation for both the 248th MDVSS unit and local law enforcement agencies.

Many thanks go out to the members of the 248th unit and the U.S. Army for their willingness to provide this great service to our law enforcement agencies. We welcome them back any time they are available.

The exercise was arranged with the U.S. Army through North Carolina Emergency Management with the assistance of Dr. Bruce Akers, a veterinarian with the NC Department of Agriculture. The wellness checks were hosted by Emergency Management at the Scotland County EMS building.

**2012 Chalk Banks Challenge raft, canoe and kayak races and biathlon
10 a.m. to 2:30 p.m. May 19, www.chalkbanks.com for entry form**

Center focuses on jobs

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RCC President Dale McInnis said, "At the end of the day, this is about one thing — jobs."

The 12,800-square-foot Center will feature two bays, each 4,000-square-feet of leasable space, and 4,800-square-feet of office space for classrooms and a conference room staffed by four people from RCC and the Scotland County economic developer.

McDow said to State and local officials who attended the groundbreaking, "Look at what is around us now and just think about what it will be like when we invite you back for the ribbon-cutting."

the Birthday list for May

2 James McQueen (DSS); **3** Katherine Medlin (Sheriff); **4** Teresa Vick and Tosha McQueen (DSS); **6** Ryan Jones (EMS); **9** James McQueen and Willie Peterkin (Transportation); **10** Mike McGirt (Public Buildings), Dr. Kelvin Raybon (Health Board) and Michelle McRae (DSS); **11** Nancy Bostick (Administration) and Trina Locklear (DSS); **12** Crystal Norton (Register of Deeds); **14** Daniel McClellan (Sheriff) and Dontae Roland (EMS); **15** Roxanne Douglas (DSS), Jonathan Taylor (EMS) and Kenneth Bethea (Jail); **17** Scott Jacobs (Sheriff) and Morgan Richardson (Health); **18** Rebecca Griffin (DSS) and Clarence McPhatter (Commissioner); **19** Keith Faulk (Public Buildings) and Sarah Craig (DSS); **20** Billie Phillips (Tax) and Tony Smith (Sheriff); **21** Bob Davis (Commissioner) and Carol Quick (DSS); **24** Pearlene Leggett (Health); **25** Gail Jackson (Jail); **26** Jennifer Taylor (Health) and Miyaka Mackie (DSS); **29** Dennis Currie (EMS) and Antoinette Gibson (Sheriff); **30** Tryon Jacobs (DSS); **30** Wayne Mace (EMS).

Fitness equipment available to employees

In order to promote the health and wellness of County employees, Parks and Recreation will offer use of the fitness equipment at the Wagram Recreation Center (WRC) at no charge. This does not apply to employee family members or retirees.

A County ID or some other form of identification showing they are a current County employee must be presented.

Paying customers will have priority if two persons want to use the same piece of equipment.

A brief orientation session prior to first time use of the equipment is required. Employee guidelines are at www.scotlandcounty.org/parks-and-recreation.aspx.

6th furlough day is Friday, May 25