

Scotland County

Monthly



DECEMBER 2011

A newsletter for Scotland County employees and the community

Commissioners to tackle issue on whether to permit concealed handguns in parks

The Board of Commissioners will tackle the issue of whether to allow or prohibit the carrying of concealed handguns in public parks and recreation areas.

The issue comes to the forefront after recent changes in handgun legislation became effective December 1, which states the County can only prohibit the carrying of concealed handguns in playgrounds, athletic fields, swimming pools and athletic facilities.

A 1995 County ordinance prohibited the carrying of concealed handguns in County buildings, on County premises and in public parks. The December 1 legislation effectively nullified the part of the ordinance that addresses the carrying of concealed handguns in public parks. It can still ban concealed weapons in County buildings. The legislation does allow the County to develop a new ordinance, which would specify the prohibition of carrying firearms in parks and recreation areas.

The Board first intends to seek input from the public. Already the Commissioners have fielded calls from residents on both sides of the issue.

Meanwhile, the Parks and Recreation Advisory Board recommended that the Board of Commissioners in all cases as allowable by State law, prohibit guns and all types of weapons from any and all recreation facilities, parks and other recreational areas in the jurisdiction of the County.

The Advisory Board also recommended the County Attorney, County Manager and Parks and Recreation Director investigate the State law to develop and/or revise the County ordinance to reflect the Parks and Recreation Advisory Board recommendation.

The Commissioners indicated they would like time to review the issue and to provide citizens with ample opportunity to weigh in on the subject and have their say.

Citizens are invited and encouraged to comment on whether to allow concealed handguns in public parks at the Board of Commissioners meeting January 4 and February 6 and during a special public input session at the Courthouse 6 p.m. Thursday, January 19, hosted by the Policy Committee.

"We can then at least get a feeling for what the community thinks," explained

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Bullard achieves CGCIO status

Tenita Bullard is one of 27 public sector leaders to successfully complete the Certified Government Chief Information Officers Program (CGCIO).

The 240-hour course at the University of Chapel Hill School of Government covered strategic technology planning, communications, project management, emerging trends, risk assessment and management, acquisition management, change management, leadership, security, legal issues and financial trends.

The course is designed for Information Technology Directors like Bullard, whose responsibilities require a broad understanding of management, leadership, legal, regulatory and enterprise topics.

The CGCIO program began in 2005 and is the first local government specific program in the nation for Information Technology Directors and Chief Information Officers.

Since its existence the program has graduated more than 600 public sector technology leaders across the nation.



Tenita Bullard

Photo of first Chairman of the Board of Commissioners located



F.B. Gibson, 1900 to 1902

It was once again a little knowledge of Scotland County genealogical history and the vast resources on the Internet that paved the way to the location of a photo of the first Chairman of the Board of Commissioners. And once again, it was Martha Norfleet, Soil and Water Conservation, who tracked down the family of Frank B. (F.B.) Gibson, who served as Chairman from 1900 to 1902.

Norfleet said she couldn't have done it alone. It was Wanda Sheppard, Tax, who recalled members of a Gibson family who lived in Gibson where Shepherd grew up. Sheppard said one of them was Gibby Gibson, who is now an attorney in Wilmington, NC.

A Google search resulted in information Norfleet would find useful, that of F.B. Gibson, Jr., an attorney with a practice in Wilmington. Better yet, Google gave Norfleet an email address. "The Chairman of the Commissioners from 1900 until 1902 was an F.B. Gibson, and we don't have a picture of him," Norfleet wrote in her email. "I spoke with someone recently who told me she thought you might be related to this Mr. Gibson, and I wanted to ask you if that is true."

"This sounds like a worthwhile project," Attorney Gibson replied. "The F. B. Gibson you have inquired about is indeed my great grandfather, and we do have some pictures of him that might be useful."

The search continues for a photograph of William Franklin Wright, Chairman from 1906 to 1908.

4-H achievements in spotlight

The 2011 4-H Achievement Night December 5 honored 4-H members and volunteers for their accomplishments and volunteer service. The 4-H County Council officers, an elected 4-H teen leadership group, planned and led the entire event.

RuthAnn Ammons was recognized for completing her second year as a 4-H club leader. She currently is the leader of the Sew What's, a 4-H club that meets twice a month to work on various sewing skills and projects.

John Ammons was recognized for his second year as a club leader of the Awh Shoot 4-H target shooting sports club.

Precious Byrd was recognized for 18 years of volunteer work and club leadership. She is currently the leader for the Local Care Crew, Helping Hands and Community Helpers 4-H clubs.

The following individuals also were recognized: Taylor Davis, Junior 4-H'er of the Year and DeAngelo Byrd, Senior 4-H'er of the Year. The 2011 4-H County Council officers were presented plaques in appreciation for the work in the past year of 4-H. The 2011 officers recognized were: DeAngelo Byrd (President), Hannah Ammons (Vice-President), Shaunee McLaurin (Secretary-Treasurer), Sommore Terry (Historian) and Langston Byrd (Reporter).

Sharon English, Family and Consumer Science Agent, installed the 2012 4-H County Council officers. This year's officers are: Langston Byrd (President), Shaunee McLaurin (Vice-President), Jazzmine Davis (Secretary-Treasurer), DeAngelo Byrd (Historian) and Taylor Davis (Reporter).

Wagram boat landing rebuilt

The boat landing at the 401 bridge over the Lumber River in Wagram was recently rebuilt by the North Carolina Wildlife Resources Commission.

The Commission installed a concrete boat ramp for loading boats in and out of the water, added a floating dock attached to the boat ramp, provided a handicapped parking area and will grade and resurface the parking lot with crush and run gravel.

"The work represents a tremendous improvement of the landing and will be a great help to both fisherman and boaters who use the river," said EMS Director Roylin Hammond.

The existing 401 bridge over the Lumber River will be replaced by the Department of Transportation in the next few years.

Between the Lumber River State Park, the new Wildlife Landing and the future new Highway 401 bridge over the Lumber River, Wagram will truly become the gateway to Scotland County," said Hammond. **Photo by Roylin Hammond**



The boat landing at the 401 bridge

the Birthday list for January

1 Clarice Holmes (Elections); **3** Debra Webb and Joan Walters (DSS) and Lakisha Williams (Parks and Recreation); **4** Angelita Locklear (DSS); **5** Doris Ann Donovan (Parks and Recreation), Ronald Ivey (Sheriff) and William Mullis (Public Works); **6** Deborah Tardif (DSS); **7** Michael Clark (EMS), Wiley Luther (Sheriff) and Larry Locklear (Transportation); **8** Deanna Carlyle (EMS); **9** B.J. Knight (Jail); **11** Sandra Lockey (EMS) and Stacy Shannon (Transportation); **12** Tyrone McKoy (Sheriff); **15** Brandon Scott (EMS); **16** Vickie Crowley (Jail) and Brandi Locklear (EMS); **18** Gregory Diggs (Parks and Recreation); **21** Jonathan Edwards (Sheriff); **22** Karen Chavis (DSS) and Brian Krout (Parks and Recreation); **26** Danny Monroe (Sheriff); **27** Kimbrick Morris (EMS); **29** James Ellerbe (Public Works); **30** Willette Jones (DSS); **31** Nicole Yarborough (DSS).

Our condolences to ...

Joy Nolan, Public Works, on the December 5 passing of her mother Anna Anderson.

2012 Board of Commissioners Meeting Schedule

January 4, 2012 (Wednesday) 6:30 p.m.
(meeting as the Water Districts Board)

January 4, 2012 (Wednesday)

February 6, 2012

March 5, 2012

April 2, 2012

May 7, 2012

June 4, 2012 at 6:30 p.m.
(meeting as the Water Districts Board)

June 4, 2012

July 10, 2012 (Tuesday)

August 6, 2012

September 4, 2012 (Tuesday)

October 1, 2012

November 5, 2012

December 3, 2012

NOTE: Meetings are scheduled for the first Monday of the month with the exception of January, July and September. Meetings begin at 7 p.m. in the A.B. Gibson Center Board Room, 322 S. Main Street. Water District Board meets 6:30 p.m. in January and June.

PostScripts Congratulations to **Randy Wood**, Cooperative Extension, on the November 29 birth of son Reagan Weaver Wood. ✂ **Bob Davis** and **Joyce McDow** for the second consecutive year were appointed Chairman and Vice Chair, respectively, of the Board of Commissioners. ✂ A speedy recovery to **Roylin Hammond**, EMS. ✂ Welcome to those who joined Scotland County departments as of October 16, 2011: **Kenneth Bedell**, EMS; **Annie Van Hoy** and **Denise Dunn**, Library; and **Atysha Locklear**, **Carol Quick** and **Jennifer O'Donnell**, DSS.

Concealed handguns an issue for Commissioners

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Commissioner Guy McCook. "It's important that the citizens of the County have input into the process."

Already the issue has proved somewhat divisive. Chairman Bob Davis said he has had numerous phone calls and conversations with people who say they are against a handgun restriction.

Commissioner John Alford offered another view. "I'm for the restriction," Alford said. "If you lived on the north side, you wouldn't want anything in the parks resembling weapons."