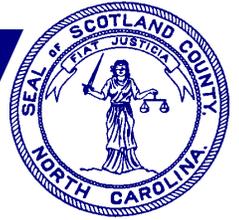


Scotland County

Monthly



MARCH 2012

A newsletter for the Scotland County community

County employees voice concerns at community input forum

More than half the attendees at a state of the City/County community forum were County employees, many of whom expressed fears and concerns about the budget and how it would affect their departments in the future.



County Manager Kevin Patterson responds to questions at the community input session.

The forum attracted employees after they learned all County departments would have to cut operational expenditures an additional 10 percent.

County Manager Kevin Patterson said over the past four years the County spent more than it received in revenues. The Commissioners this fiscal year raised taxes, cut positions and furloughed employees to avoid using a dwindling fund balance.

"Our budget is sparse," Patterson said. "It has been lean for a number of years. It's pretty much skin and bones."

Patterson added, "When I'm asked if we are going to cut spending or raise taxes, the answer is 'yes.'"

The County Manager explained that there are several unknowns that have and will affect the budget — revenues from sales tax and ongoing budget talks in Raleigh and in D.C.

Patterson said the budget talks might result in less State and federal funding for mandated services along with a demand that the County provide the same required services and shoulder the funding for them.

Patterson added that the County has no control over sales tax or how things are budgeted on the State and federal level. "We're trying to predict what a lot of people hundreds of miles away are arguing about."

Non-mandated services are ones that could be eliminated like Sheriff, EMS, Soil and Water Conservation, Cooperative Extension, Library and Parks and Recreation. "No one wants to see them go away," Patterson said.

[see Budget, page 4](#)

\$85,000 grant will promote business and job growth

The Scotland County Economic Development Corporation (SCEDC) was awarded an \$85,000 grant from the NC Rural Center to assist in programs and activities of the soon-to-be constructed Small Business Innovation Center (SBIC).

SCEDC Chair Joyce McDow said, "We are thankful the Rural Center awarded this funding that will allow the Economic Development Corporation in partnership with Richmond Community College to assist with training programs for small businesses and start-ups in Scotland County."

SCEDC Vice Chair Tommy Parker said, "It also validates our continued commitment to partnerships to encourage job growth and investment in Scotland County."

"The key to our success in being job-ready is to continue nurturing partnerships as we have done with the Small Business Innovation Center and Richmond Community College," Parker added. "This endeavor will allow local entrepreneurs to bring ideas to fruition and create jobs within our community."

McDow and Parker praised Economic Developer Greg Icard for his hard work, which resulted in successfully obtaining the additional grant

[see Grant, page 4](#)

7,900 pounds of paper shredded at annual event

The fourth annual Scotland County Shred Day drew more than 250 citizens who safely disposed of 7,900 pounds of paper.

Scotland County Cooperative Extension and Extension and Community Association (ECA) sponsored the event and brought in Shred-It, a company that specializes in secure document management.

Shred-It offers community shred events to increase the knowledge of identity theft and make communities safer places to live.

The service is offered once a year to citizens free of charge. The event was scheduled to last from 9 a.m. to 12 p.m. or until the truck was filled, whichever came first.

According to Shred-It officials, the 7,900 pounds of shredded paper represented 40 trees.

The annual Shred-It event has gained in popularity, so much so that people started arriving at 8 a.m. with their paper, one hour before the event was to begin and 15 minutes before the truck arrived.

Cooperative Extension Family and Consumer Sciences Agent

[see Shred-It, page 3](#)

Health Department achieves accreditation

The Health Department met specified standards set by the University of North Carolina Institute for Public Health and the State Division of Public Health.

Both agencies require all local health departments to meet certain standards every four years.

Departments are evaluated on 41 benchmarks and 148 very specific activities by a Site Visit Team (SVT).

"The Health Department met 40 of 41 benchmarks and 147 of 148 activities," said Interim Health Director Wayne Raynor.

The SVT is made up of an active or retired local health director, an environmental health program manager, public health nurse and an active or retired board of health member from other counties.

The benchmarks pertain to all policies and procedures for all program areas including animal control.

The departments are evaluated on overall operations, clinical and otherwise, and whether or not the agency is in compliance with updated policies and procedures and if their observations bear that out.

Client confidentiality, safety and security and employee credentialing are also factors that are reviewed. The review takes about two and a half days to complete.

"I am very proud of this accomplishment and that of Accreditation Coordinator Danielle Wilkins," Raynor said.

News of Note

Prescription card use steady

The number of prescriptions purchased using the NACo-sponsored Prescription Drug Discount Card was 222 in February, down from 233 in January and down from 259 prescriptions purchased in February 2011. The NACo program in cooperation with Caremark offered the best prices on 60 prescriptions in February. Since Scotland County opted to participate in the program in September 2006, 18,697 prescriptions have been processed at participating pharmacies for a total price savings of \$154,441 for customers. Discount prescription cards are available in English and in Spanish at 507 West Covington Street. Call Ann Kurtzman 277-3191 or email akurtzman@scotlandcounty.org for more information or to pick up cards.

Join WOW! to get in shape

The second six-week session of the "WOW!" Workouts for Women (physical activity/nutrition) Program is 5 to 6 p.m. on Mondays, Tuesdays and Thursdays through May 3. Exercise begins promptly at 5:15 p.m. The program can help participants manage weight, increase stamina, strength and energy levels, decrease blood pressure and provide nutritional information as a guide to a healthier lifestyle. Register for the program at Scotland Place. Cost is \$12.

Children help plant tree at library

Text and photo by Martha Norfleet, Soil and Water



Some students help water the young tree planted at the library.

Amy Richburg and Martha Norfleet celebrated Arbor Day with fourth grade classes at various County elementary schools in March.

The two, who represent the Scotland Soil and Water Conservation District, were joined by Nature's Way Landscaping to provide Japanese Flowering Apricot trees for the children to plant at their respective schools.

Eight schools and Scotland County Memorial

Library participated in the "outdoor" time. The children helped dig holes, place the trees, fill in dirt and water the young trees. Teachers and students each received Arbor Day handouts and activity sheets.

Our condolences to ...

Johnny Brown, DSS, on the passing of his his sister, Betty Robinson, County Commissioner **John Alford** on the March 21 passing of his mother, Carletha Alford.



Who, Where, What?

- Gather a team and collect trash within Scotland County on Saturday, April 28 between 9 a.m. - 3 p.m.

Bag Drop-off

- Drop-off your bags of trash at any of the five recycling centers located around Scotland County (be sure to notify the onsite volunteer of the number of bags collected)

Recycling Locations:

- Stewartville South
- Williamson/Livingston Quarters
- Sneads Grove
- Wagram
- Palmer Road

Supplies

- Collect vests, gloves and trash bags at the chamber office Mon. - Fri. (8 a.m. - 5 p.m.) or at any of the Scotland County Recycling Centers
- Chamber Address: 606 Atkinson St. (910) 276-7420

Contest

- Your team can win a cash prize for collecting the most bags of trash around Scotland County
- King of the Mountain prize money: \$200
- 2nd place prize money: \$100

Brought to you by the Laurinburg/Scotland County Area Chamber of Commerce

Green Committee



Annual Shred-It remains popular

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Sharon English said citizens repeatedly ask that the event continue on an annual basis.

“So many people expressed their appreciation for this service, and many are asking if the truck could come twice a year,” English said. “Several people commented on how easy the process is.”

All participants needed to do was drive through. Volunteers were on hand to register them, direct traffic and carry bagged and boxed paper to the Shred-It truck.

English credited the success of the annual Shred-It to the volunteers. This year, there were 25 representing the Laurel Hill Baptist Church youth group, ECA and Family and Consumer Science Advisory Council.

For English, Shred-It is a family affair since she counts her mother and son among the volunteers.

The community shred provides a safe, economical and environmentally friendly way to rid homes of potentially damaging information.

English said Cooperative Extension will invite the Shred-It truck back again next year because of popular demand.

State Attorney General Roy Cooper suggests the following tips to prevent identity theft: protect your social security number, destroy documents you don't need, monitor your finances, watch over your credit reports, get a free security freeze, protect passwords, protect your mail, protect your information online and beware of scams and frauds

For more information please contact Cooperative Extension at (910) 277-2422.

Results on Operation Medicine Drop, which was held along with Shred Day, will be featured in the April issue of the newsletter.



Volunteers load bags and boxes of paper onto the truck for shredding.



Tax launches new features on collections site

The Tax Office soon will launch a redesigned collections website that will make it easier for users to access information and make payments.

The website is designed by Sturgis Web Services, which specialize in government sites and has a website client list in several states and several North Carolina counties.

Tax Administrator Mary Helen Norton said, “Users will be able to print a receipt, print a copy of their tax bill and change addresses all from the comfort of their homes.”

She added, “The site will be updated every 15 minutes and therefore is near real time.”

Norton worked with Sturgis Web services to create a site that complements the Scotland County website by using similar colors and the same plaid design.

Library Bookmobile new routes and schedule established

by Leon Gyles, Library

The Scotland County Memorial Library Bookmobile is now traveling its new routes throughout the County. New Bookmobile driver Annie Van Hoy redesigned the former routes and will be out and about the County the first four Tuesdays and Wednesdays of every month.

The Bookmobile will be at Wagram Town Hall, 24421 Marlboro Street every Wednesday from 2:30 p.m. to 4:30 p.m. Library friends in the Laurel Hill area can access the Bookmobile when it stops across from the Laurel Hill Post Office on Morgan Street on the first and third Wednesdays of the month from 10:30 a.m. to noon.

The Bookmobile will also visit retirement and assisted-living communities such as Prestwick and Scotia Village, neighborhoods,

daycares and shut-ins across the County. To request a Bookmobile visit, please call the Scotland County Memorial Library staff at 276-0563 extension 6.

To check Bookmobile material you will need a Scotland County Memorial Library card, which is available from the staff at the main library at 312 West Church Street in Laurinburg. Please bring a photo ID listing your current address. As always, the Library is committed to serving the community and will be happy to assist you.

Communicable disease is Public Health Week theme

Stopping the spread of communicable disease is the April 2 to 8 theme for National Public Health Week (NPHW).

Communicable diseases are defined as any illness that can be spread from one individual to another through the air, direct contact or contaminated food or water.

Each year, one million Americans die from preventable disease. Yet there are simple ways to halt the spread of disease.

It is essential to keep in mind that since adults spend nearly a quarter of their time at work, practicing healthy habits and disease prevention is not limited to the home.

By focusing on preventing the spread of communicable disease one workplace at a time, we can come one step closer to achieving National Public Health Week's goal of longer, healthier and happier lives for every American.

Here are some easy, healthy habits for the workplace. Drink plenty of water because it helps flush toxins out of immune system.

Wash hands often. Cover face and hands when coughing or sneezing. Avoid close contact with sick co-workers.

Use safe practices such as proper handling, refrigeration and hand washing techniques to avoid food borne illnesses. Use alcohol-based hand sanitizers to eliminate germs that may be left behind from improper hand washing. — **Submitted by Kathie Cox, Health**

Grant supports business growth *the Birthday list for April*

continued from front page I

"Richmond Community College is pleased to be an active and engaged partner with the SBIC," said Steve Smith, Vice President of Workforce and Economic Development at RCC.

As part of the Rural Center grant, RCC will provide an educational component designed to promote entrepreneurship within the community.

RCC's primary focus as a part of the \$85,000 grant will be to coordinate instructional training and seminars to develop the SBIC facility as a hub of instruction and workforce credentialing.

"We appreciate the NC Rural Center and their desire to partner with us in our efforts to create an environment for success for small business and entrepreneurs," Icard said. "The programs and services are designed to assist business and to highlight the County's longterm, multi-faceted and strategic approach to bringing jobs to the community."

With the grant, the SCEDC will offer programs and training to small businesses, entrepreneurs and start-ups in Scotland County as well as the surrounding region.

It will be another vital part of the SBIC, which is designed to assist in adding jobs and investment to the community.

The SBIC will also provide leasable space to house small business start-ups and entrepreneurs.

When constructed, the SBIC will be located on I6800 US401 Bypass.

Budget concerns continue

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"A lot of services still will have to be altered," Patterson explained. "Exactly how and in what manner, we don't know."

Chairman Bob Davis, who attended the forum, urged people to buy local whenever possible. "Sales tax revenues depend on people's buying decisions."

Davis added, "It's not easy to say we're going to take somebody's money away from them. Whatever you buy at home will stay here. The County can buy locally, too."

Laurinburg City Manager Ed Burchins said, "These times have been the most challenging in my experience, and I have been a city manager for 28 years."

Burchins said, "This is a five-year downward trend locally, statewide and nationally. Governments have had to take drastic steps to keep budgets balanced and to keep their heads above water. The difficulties will not turn around quickly."

the Birthday list for April

1 Mark Jackson (EMS); **2** Randall Gibson (EMS) and Glenn Chatman (Public Works); **4** Buffie Hunt (EMS); **6** Shekeesha McPhatter (DSS); **9** Berta Adams (Jail); **12** Betty Smith (Health) and Michael Alford (Parks and Recreation); **14** Lakeisha Jackson (DSS), William Edge (Sheriff) and Kisse Phy (EMS); **16** Erica Hall (Health), Jerry Johnson (Elections), Tammy Cole (DSS) and Alan Stewart (Parks and Recreation); **17** Persephone Stewart and April Bartholomew (DSS); **18** April Snead (DSS); **20** Sandra McNeil (DSS); **21** Kevin Hudson (Jail), Patricia Campbell (Public Buildings) and Michael Woods (Sheriff); **22** Madeline Peele (DSS) Annie Van Hoy (Library); **23** Roger Alford (Sheriff); **24** Marty Pate (Tax); **25** Sandra Miller (Jail); **26** Christy Lowry (EMS); **27** Tina Clark (Health); **28** Sandy McCrimmon, Jr. (Transportation) and Sharon English (Cooperative Extension); **29** Debra Sandlin (EMS).

Expansion celebrated in Wagram



Students at Wagram Primary School cut the ribbon at the official celebration of the school's expansion. The new space houses a gymnasium and additional classrooms. The students took charge of the agenda and acted as tour guides for all visitors who attended the celebration. Superintendent Rick Stout thanked the Board of Commissioners as partners in the project. The expansion was funded through a long-term low-interest tax-exempt qualified school construction bond where payments are made using State school lottery funds.

5th furlough day is Monday, April 9