

Scotland County

Monthly



DECEMBER 2010

A newsletter for Scotland County employees

Governor Perdue pays visit to discuss issues of local concern

Governor Beverly Perdue, on a visit to Scotland County this month, heard plenty from community officials, who voiced concerns about the more than \$3.5 billion State shortfall and the impact the shortfall would have locally.

Perdue's visit coincided with her announced plans to balance the budget by cutting State funds anywhere from five to 15 percent.

Anticipated cuts caused alarm as counties and school systems statewide brace themselves for additional budgetary losses, including one-time federal stimulus funds.

Commissioner John Cooley said if there were cuts to be made

he would like to see the State "skin that rabbit" somewhere other than at the County level. Cooley, a small business owner, said he has already made hard choices because of the sluggish economy.

Commissioner McCook agreed. He asked the Governor to consider tax credits for small businesses that create jobs. "It would help a community put people back to work. Rural communities



Governor Beverly Perdue with Chamber of Commerce Chairman Drew Williamson and Senator Bill Purcell (center).

and she will continue to do so. She added that people in rural areas deserve good paved roads just like their urban counterparts.

She urged Davis to send a resolution to the State legislature expressing continued opposition to the transfer of secondary road maintenance to counties.

are really struggling with jobs right now."

Commissioner Joyce McDow said she was worried about the State retirement system and whether it will continue strong.

Perdue said the State retirement system is 97 percent funded and currently is stronger than most other state retirement systems.

Board Chairman Bob Davis said rumors persist that the State will once again consider transferring maintenance of secondary roads to counties. He said that legislation would add 20 cents to the County's tax rate.

Perdue assured she has "killed" that legislation every time,

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County commits to methane gas project

The Commissioners agreed to move forward with the development of a methane collection system at the landfill.

That means the County will put up an \$86,000 match to a \$250,000 grant to construct a vacuum-like system that will pull the methane out of the landfill. Currently, the gas is flared off.

County Manager Kevin Patterson said Lumbee Electric would purchase the methane gas to sell as an energy source, which means the County would break even on the \$86,000 investment in two years.

Patterson added, "This is an efficient way to destroy methane, which is a potent greenhouse gas that destroys the ozone faster than carbon dioxide."

He added the methane collection system would also offset some of the electricity the landfill currently uses. Start of the project has not yet been determined.

Three sworn in as Commissioners

Three individuals, all of whom are familiar with County operations, were sworn in as Commissioners December 6.

Guy McCook served from 2006 to 2010. He was sworn in for a second term as a County Commissioner.

John Cooley returned after serving a term from 1998 to 2002.

Carol McCall retired from the County in December 2009 after more than 24 years of employment. She had worked at the Health Department, Parks and Recreation and DSS.

Cooley replaces former Commissioner Betty Blue Ghoslon while McCall replaces former Commissioner J.D. Willis.

Shep Jones, elected to a second term as Sheriff, was sworn in along with his staff.



Superior Court Judge Richard T. Brown administered the oath of office to Carol McCall, John Cooley (center) and Guy McCook.



Left to right, Tina Clark and Michealle Reece with Peggy Robinson.

News of Note

Robinson retires after 35 years

After 35 years as the Processing Unit Supervisor with the Health Department, Peggy Robinson retired, not with a whisper but with a bang. The agency held a farewell fete in her honor. The event attracted Health Department staff, numerous County employees and other Health Department retirees.

Employees will get tax relief in 2011

The Tax Relief, Unemployment Insurance Reauthorization, and Job Creation Act of 2010, passed earlier this month, will put more take-home money in the pockets of employees each pay day. In tax year 2010 employees earnings were withheld 6.2 percent for Social Security and 1.45 percent for Medicare. In 2011 employees will have their earnings withheld at 4.2 percent for Social Security while Medicare withholdings remain the same at 1.45 percent.

4-H celebrates 2010 achievements

Scotland County 4-H celebrated 2010 accomplishments at the 4-H Achievement Program attended by 60 youth and adults. Four-H'ers were recognized for project records, achievement plans and participation in other activities. Special recognition was given to the Junior/Senior 4-H'er of the Year. A PowerPoint presentation of yearly activities was the program highlight. County Council officers were also installed during this annual event.

Community gardeners adopt healthier eating habits

Community Garden Coordinator Melissa Tomas hosted the 1st annual garden harvest potluck dinner for community gardeners. Many participants reported they increased their fruit and vegetable consumption, tried new vegetables and saved money at the grocery store. One participant said she previously did not eat many fresh vegetables because she could not afford them. The community garden provided her the opportunity to have access to free vegetables.



Left to right, Corrie Haskins, "Flip" Ratliff, Grayson Ammons and Hannah Ammons deliver Christmas Cheer to Church Community Services.

Food drive helps individuals and families in need

Scotland 4-H County Council participated in the 4-H Hungry to Help Initiative by collecting canned goods and other non-perishable food items for local families in need. The two-week food drive collected 487 canned and non-perishable food items, which were donated to the Christmas Cheer Food Bank of Church Community Services. One youth received special recognition for collecting 150 items by soliciting donations from family, neighbors and church members. The food items will be distributed during the holiday season to needy individuals and families in Scotland County. As a result of the success of this food drive, the incoming 4-H County Council has already expressed a desire to host at least one food drive in the next year.

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 Donovan (Parks and Recreation), Ronald Ivey (Sheriff) and William Mullis (Public Works); 6 Deborah Tardif (DSS) and Lisa Scott (Sheriff); 7 Bruce Clark (EMS), Wiley Luther (Sheriff) and Larry Locklear (Transportation); 8 Deanna Carlyle (EMS); 11 Sandra Lockey (EMS) and Stacy Shannon (Transportation); 12 Tyrone McKoy (Sheriff); 15 Brandon Scott (EMS); 16 Betty Crowley (Jail); 17 Herman Gillis (Tax); 21 Clyde Willoughby and Jonathan Edwards (Sheriff); 22 Karen Chavis (DSS) and Brian Krout (Parks and Recreation); 26 James Monroe (Sheriff) and Martin Clark (Public Works); 27 Kimbrick Morris (EMS); 29 James Ellerbe (Public Works); 30 Willette Jones (DSS); 31 Nicole Yarborough (DSS).

Perdue responds to local concerns

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ABC Board Chair Dee Hammond asked that the ABC system not be privatized as it would deprive counties of the revenues.

City Council Member Tommy Parker requested support from the Governor for the Laurinburg-Maxton Airport in its bid to receive federal funding to upgrade the runway to allow for the landing of heavier aircraft.

Senator Bill Purcell urged Perdue to continue the one cent sales tax for the time being as it would bring in \$1 billion in revenue to the State.

The listening session at the RCC Scotland campus was organized by Purcell and Rep. Garland Pierce.

Similar listening sessions were held in Robeson and Hoke counties.

Our condolences to ...

Our condolences to **Glen Lockey**, Public Works, on the November 28 death of his mother, Sandra Price, and to daughter-in-law **Felisa Lockey**, DSS.

A take on the U.S. Census 2010

The United States population as of April 1, 2010, was 308,745,538. That's a 9.7 percent increase compared to the 2000 population of 281,421,906. North Carolina saw an 18.5 percent population increase from 8,049,313 in 2000 to 9,535,483 in 2010