

Scotland County

Monthly



FEBRUARY 2010

A newsletter for Scotland County employees

County/City activities discussed at forum

The vision is ambitious, progress is slow, but the County and City continue to work on numerous projects that could improve the overall quality of life for residents.

That was the main message delivered by County Manager Kevin Patterson, Economic Developer Greg Icard and Laurinburg City Manager Ed Burchins at two separate events addressing the state of the County and the City.

Hosted by the Chamber of Commerce, the three officials updated Chamber members the morning of February 10 at the Dulin Center and the public later the same day at the Courthouse.

Everything is possible. Nothing is easy. It all takes time was the mantra for both presentations.

"We wanted to give an honest picture of how things are during these difficult economic times in Scotland County and across the United States," Patterson explained. "We wanted everyone to understand that what is going

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March proclaimed Census 2010 Month

Chairman J.D. Willis and Laurinburg City Mayor Matthew Block proclaimed March as 2010 Census Month as a way to encourage all County residents to fill out and return their Census questionnaires. The 2010 Census questionnaires are delivered from March 15 to 17, 2010, and forms should be mailed back to the Census Bureau between March 15, 2010 and April 15, 2010.

The good news is that the 2010 Census questionnaire is one of the shortest in history— just 10 questions that only take about 10 minutes to complete.

The proclamation is a way for elected officials to remind and encourage people to complete the forms when they arrive in the mail and return them to the Census Bureau.

During each Decennial Census, the Census Bureau undertakes the count of every person residing in the United States, as mandated by U.S. Constitution.

During the 2000 Census, 72 percent of occupied households mailed back their forms.

In 2010, the Census is challenging communities to do even better. From the time the forms are delivered until the closing of the mail campaign at the end of April, residents will be continually reminded of the importance of mailing back their census forms and the impact of the census on their communities.

An accurate count of the local population helps ensure that communities receive their fair share of federal funding. This funding includes resources for services such as health care, education and roads.



Laurinburg City Mayor Matthew Block, seated left, and Board of Commissioners Chairman J.D. Willis sign a proclamation declaring March as Census Month. Behind them are, left to right, Census Partnership Assistant Joel Patsch, County Census Liaison Ann Kurtzman, Census Partnership Specialist Jan Coley and Complete Count Committee members Mark Gretch and Dee Hammond.

County gets low ranking in national health outcomes study

Scotland County ranked 86 of the 100 North Carolina counties in health outcomes, according to a recently released study that ranked the health of counties nationwide. Scotland County also ranked 95 for health factors.

Health outcomes measure data for premature death, low birth weight and the physical and mental health of individuals while health factors measure adult smoking, adult obesity, motor vehicle crash death rate, binge drinking, chlamydia rate and teen birth rate.

Scotland also had a low ranking in social and economic factors at 97 of 100 counties. Those factors include education level, unemployment, children in poverty, income inequality, inadequate social support and single parent households.

Health Director Ron Sapp said, "More educated counties with less poverty will have a higher health ranking. In counties where there is more poverty, a lot of unemployment and a not quite high educational base, there will be poorer health outcomes."

Sapp echoed statements made by State Health Director Jeff Engel, MD. "There are big differences in health among North Carolina counties. Poorer communities have poorer health. Education, jobs, availability of healthy foods, access to high-quality affordable health care, individual behavior — all these things have a big effect on people's health."

Supporting the statements are the rankings of nearby counties — Anson at 87, Richmond at 90, Robeson at 98 and Bladen at 97. On the plus side, the County ranked better on clinical care at 27 and physical environment at 25. Clinical care focuses on

see Health, page 2

Kissell hosts follow-up to Federal Resources Summit

Text and photo by Greg Icard, Economic Developer

Congressman Larry Kissell hosted a follow up event to the December Federal Resources Summit at Laurinburg Maxton Airport in order to delve deeper into how the region can secure much-needed project funding.



Commissioner Bob Davis discussed the importance of completing I-74 and widening US 401 from Laurinburg to Raeford.

Local elected officials, business leaders and interested citizens from Anson, Montgomery, Richmond and Scotland counties participated in this question and answer session at RCC Cole Auditorium.

The panel was represented by officials from the US Department of Agriculture, NC Department of Commerce and Richmond Community College.

Kissell said that overall, the economy was showing signs of improvement but in this region, particularly the four counties represented, there was still much progress to be made.

He stated that working regionally to address the problems that confront these

counties was a first step to making things better. He also highlighted the importance of receiving input as well as ideas from the citizens to help in solving problems.

Ultimately, input from these meetings will be used to assist Congressman Kissell and Congressman Mike McIntyre in the development of a strategic plan for both of their respective districts.

Post Scripts

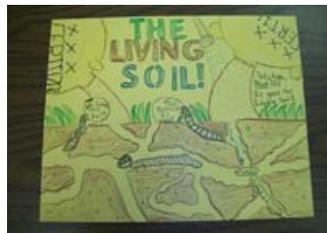
Cooperative Extension Adult EFNEP (Expanded Food & Nutrition Education Program) Assistant **Umeko Terry** recently graduated the first group of Cooking with Class participants. Cooking with Class provides nutrition education to teen mothers as well as expecting teen mothers. Classes focus on the importance of maintaining a healthy weight, saving money by budget shopping and the importance of daily fitness. **Ann Kurtzman**, Administration, became a North Carolina Certified County Clerk. Administered by the School of Government, Kurtzman was one of 39 clerks across the State to receive the certification, which was awarded for the first time ever to County Clerks and Deputy Clerks. **Roxanne Douglas**, DSS, on the birth of her New Year's Eve baby, a son, Michael Joel Bradelyn Douglas, December 31.

Our condolences to **Tryon Jacobs**, DSS, on the recent passing of his father Harold Gene Jacobs and our condolences to **Taronda Douglas**, DSS, on the January 14 passing of her grandfather, John Sloan.

Poster contest for students shows living soil interpretations

Text and photos by Martha Norfleet, Soil and Water

The Living Soil was the topic for the annual poster contest hosted by Scotland Soil and Water and open to all third, fourth and fifth graders within the County.



Posters by winners Michael Davern, top, and Kimberly Jimenez-Alarcon, bottom.

Wagram Primary School, Shaw Elementary School and Laurel Hill Elementary School submitted contest entries.

A certificate of recognition was given to each student who participated.

Awards were given for first, second and third place finishes in each grade.

Kimberly Jimenez-Alarcon, third grader from Wagram Primary School, and Michael Davern, fifth grader from Shaw Elementary School, both won a \$25 Walmart gift card for their first place entries.

Jahkayla Walker, third grader from Wagram Primary School, and Hailey Morrison, fifth grader from Shaw Elementary School, both won

a \$15 Walmart gift card for their second place entries.

Adriana Williams, third grader from Laurel Hill Elementary School, and Jesse Horton, fifth grader from Shaw Elementary School, both won a \$15 Walmart gift card for their third place entries.

The winning first place posters will be entered into the Area VII competition. Area winners will advance to the State contest.

Health ranking a "snapshot"

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uninsured adults, primary care providers, preventable hospital stays, hospice use and diabetic screenings while physical environment measures pollution, access to healthy foods and liquor store density.

The report was released by the University of Wisconsin Population Health Institute and the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation and ranks the overall health of counties in all 50 states — more than 3,000 counties in all — by measuring how healthy people are and how long they live.

The ranking gives a "snapshot" of residents' health so each county can see what they are doing well and where they need to improve. Researchers used four measures of overall health or "health outcomes" for counties: the rate of people dying before age 75, the percent of people who report being in fair or poor health, the number of days people report being in poor physical and poor mental health and the rate of low-birthweight infants.

The report then looked at factors that affect people's health in four categories: health behavior, clinical care, social and economic factors and physical environment. Those factors included rates of adult smoking, adult obesity, binge drinking, and teenage pregnancy; the number of uninsured adults, availability of primary care providers, and preventable hospital stays; rates of high school graduation, number of children in poverty, and rates of violent crime; access to healthy foods, air pollution levels, and liquor store density.

Horne teaches importance of recycling to Wolf Cub Pack 420

Public forum gives residents County/City activities update

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J.R. "Bobby" Horne shows cub scouts materials that can be recycled.

Wolf Cub Pack 420 learned all about recycling by going to the source — the Wagram Recycle Center on 401 North.

The Laurinburg Presbyterian Church-based group met Solid Waste Enforcement Officer J.R. "Bobby" Horne at the Recycle Center at dusk January 28.

The presentation on the importance of recycling generated a great deal of interest among the boys.

Horne showed the youth materials that can be recycled and how to separate them. Horne pulled out portable stairs so the boys could climb them to look in one of the bins.

Pack members then asked Horne to allow them one by one to look in all the bins, and Horne complied by moving the stairs to all the receptacles while the boys lined up to peek inside.

The visit by the group allowed them to meet one of the goals outlined in the Wolf Cub Manual — to learn more about recycling and pollution and to take a look at where these items go, what items can be recycled and why is it important to recycle.

Horne said he enjoys spreading the word about recycling and the recycling opportunities in the County. "Hopefully they take this information and apply what they've learned at home and teach their families all about recycling."

on here is no different than what is going on everywhere else."

Patterson explained how the \$26 million in stimulus for Scotland County was actually distributed. He explained that most of the funds did not stay specifically in Scotland County but were distributed to six other counties and even across six states. "The stimulus is a good thing but not a saving grace," said Patterson.

The BRAC move, which is expected to occur in the next 18 months, will not have a significant impact on the County's population growth.

Patterson added that over the next decade, the County will recruit the contractors who might relocate to the area as a result of BRAC. "It will be a slow, deliberate process going forward."

Patterson said the widening of 401N to Raeford and I-74 projects remain high priority, but there is yet to be funding made available for them.

Patterson also discussed another priority project, the renovation of the Laurinburg-Maxton Airport runway, in which the County, City, Town of Maxon and Airport Commission all are working to secure funding for the project.

The County Manager discussed how the FY 2010-2011 local budget might be affected by the \$1 billion budget deficit at the State level. "The County, schools and City all will realize additional funding cuts as the State looks to creatively fill its own shortfall."

"The County intends to budget conservatively this year in order to maintain the level of service at the current year," he said.

Patterson assured, "The County will stay as small as possible so as not to put a burden on your pocketbooks."

Economic Developer Greg Icard reported that in 2009 three new companies located to Scotland County, which resulted in a total \$15.5 million capital investment and the creation of 205 jobs.

Icard said, "There is potential to attract military-type companies because of the County's proximity to Fort Bragg. This will be helpful in the future."

Additionally, Icard was able to secure \$600,000 in grants as incentives for new and existing businesses.

City Manager Burchins concluded the community forum by discussing future plans to refurbish the airport runway, develop an industrial park on 401 South and expand the transmission of water in the County and the region.

EMStatistics

EMS Report for January:

Responded to 379 Medical/Trauma calls

Treated 47 total traffic accident patients

Animal Control calls after hours/emergency 20

Sold 4 blue address signs

911 Report Highlights:

380 EMS

298 Sheriff's Department

268 Laurinburg Police

Department

83 Fire Department

854 hang-up calls

83 wrong numbers

72 open line calls

1,784 cellular calls

2,319 total calls to 911

Top five complaints for EMS Response

73 sick person (specific diagnosis)

47 traffic accidents (total patients)

32 breathing problems

31 transfer/interfacility/palliative care

29 chest pain

Weather Observations

(EMS Recordings)

Temp (high) 69 on 1/17,20

Temp (low) 16 on 1/11

Wind (mph) 31 on 1/25

Rainfall (inches) .92 on 1/17

Compiled by Tommy Hatcher

Introductions & transitions

Welcome to those individuals who joined Scotland County departments since December 16, 2009: **Sarah Bryan** and **Teresa Samuel**, Health; **Rebecca Antill**, Library; **James Thomas**, Public Buildings and **Anna Smith**, part-time with EMS.



Red Cross Blood Drive
1 p.m. to 5 p.m. March 30
Administrative Building
Conference Room
507 West Covington Street

News of Note

Smithfield's helps in fund-raising effort

Health Department staff will be "working" at Smithfield's 5 p.m. to 8 p.m. Monday, March 8 to raise money for the Scotland County Relay For Life. Smithfield's will donate 20 percent of its profits that evening for the agency's Relay For Life team effort. Everyone is encouraged to come out and enjoy an evening of good food and fellowship at Smithfield's to support a great cause. Health Department staff will take food out to the patron after the plates are filled, clean tables and refill drinks. "Hopefully, we'll get some tips as well to go toward the effort," said Lynda McMillan, event organizer.

SSA has local office hours once a month

Social Security Administration (SSA) office hours at Scotland Place, 1210 Turnpike Road, are 9 a.m. to 12 p.m. the third Thursday of each month. The Administration will answer questions and provide forms during that time. No appointment is necessary as customers are served on a first come first serve basis.

Sheller tells of Tennis Center plans

Tennis Center Coordinator Tom Sheller plans to promote and improve tennis as a viable recreational and social outlet for residents of Scotland County. He will coordinate with Scotland County Tennis Association and Scotland County Parks and Recreation in order to implement programs/activities for youth and adults and also to maintain the Tennis Center in a manner that is both welcoming and attractive. Sheller's hours at the Tennis Center are 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. Monday, Tuesday and Thursday. Phone is 277-2592, or contact Sheller at 277-0205 at other times. Sheller welcomes suggestions, ideas, feedback and criticism. Sheller plans to distribute an electronic newsletter monthly to help keep everyone interested in tennis and informed of what's going on.

Volunteers network for fresh ideas

Approximately 300 NC 4-H volunteers, including four from Scotland County, attended the NC 4-H Volunteer Leaders Conference in Raleigh, February 5 to 7. Volunteers attended workshops on a variety of topics and networked with other volunteers from across the State. RuthAnn Ammons was inducted as the 2010 District 4-H Volunteer Association Secretary and Precious Byrd was inducted as Parliamentarian. Other attending volunteers included John Ammons and William Byrd. All volunteers returned with new ideas to share so they could help build the 4-H program in Scotland County.



9 a.m. to 12 p.m. Saturday, March 20
Scotland High School parking lot
1000 West Church Street

When throwing it away
is not an option ...

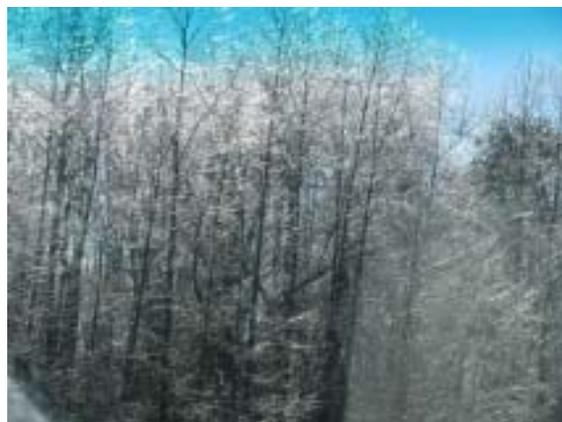
the Birthday list for March

1 Bud McAllister (Inspections); **4** Catherine Stubbs (Tax); **6** Gaylord Hunt (IT), Nancy Pittman (DSS) and Latoya Williams (Sheriff); **7** Jeffrey Cooke (Sheriff), Raymond Moody (Parks and Recreation) and Felisa McKeithan (Transportation); **8** Leslie Scott (DSS); **12** June Hunt (EMS); **13** Phyllis Clark (Health) and Alice Morgan (DSS); **14** Rachel Peguese (Health) and Mary White (EMS); **15** Sarah Bryan (Health); **16** Annie Malloy (Health) and Malcolm McClellan (Jail); **20** Gracie Rettig (Transportation); **22** Kitty Johnson (Health); **24** Oscar Henderson (EMS), Mary Helen Norton (Tax), Augusta Roper (Public Buildings), Linda Jones (Transportation) and Rhonda Cox and Elizabeth Shutt (DSS); **28** Rodney Tucker (Sheriff).

January and February brought ice and snow



A little more than an inch of snow blanketed Scotland County February 5.



Ice coated the trees in January.



The road less traveled or not traveled at all.

First ice coated the County late Friday, January 22, leaving most residents housebound Saturday.

Snow fell the first weekend in February but rapidly melted by Saturday afternoon.

Fortunately, there were no serious injuries reported as a result of the ice or snow.

Many County residents, though, were without power for several hours caused by frozen tree limbs falling on power lines.

Photos by Roylin Hammond, EMS