

Scotland County

Monthly



MAY 2010

A newsletter for Scotland County employees

Officials seek legislative support during County Assembly Day

A local delegation of elected and County officials received support and a sympathetic ear from State legislators on key issues of financial concern. Senator Bill Purcell and Representatives Garland Pierce and Doug Yongue sided with the County on current legislation that would have a negative financial impact on counties and taxpayers.

All three legislators, however, discussed how State elected officials are struggling to close North Carolina's own \$2 billion budgetary gap in order to balance the budget.

County officials asked Purcell, Pierce and Yongue to oppose collective bargaining legislation that might usher in unions during difficult economic times. "This would be a nightmare in a right-to-work State," explained County Manager Kevin Patterson.

Legislation that would save the State millions would require counties to house misdemeanants who have sentences up to 180 days rather than the currently required 90 days. The policy shift would cost counties an estimated \$42 million a year.



Pictured, left to right, with Sen. Bill Purcell, center, are Economic Developer Greg Icard, County Manager Kevin Patterson and Commissioners Joyce McDow, John Alford and Bob Davis.

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Gibson welcomes new company

Woodlawn Swing Sets will locate a manufacturing facility in the vacant Scotland Wood Building in Gibson. The company promises an eventual 25 new jobs and at least \$500,000 in new investment.

"Scotland County and the Town of Gibson, in particular, are fortunate to be selected as the site for the Woodlawn Swing Sets and the operation and jobs it brings to the community," said Board of Commissioners Chairman J.D. Willis.

"This success plus other recent successes in business development and industrial recruitment can be credited to Scotland County's continued commitment to strengthening the tax base and growing jobs throughout the County," Willis added.

"The ability to take an existing, vacant building and rehabilitate it for another productive use worked for all parties, and the community will be better served for that effort," Willis explained.

The North Carolina Rural Center also awarded the Town of Gibson a \$36,000 grant through the Building Reuse Grant Program to assist in renovations of the building.

"The company will bring new jobs in this area, and it will impact Gibson in a positive way," said Gibson Mayor Ronnie Hudson. "This business venture can turn Gibson in a new direction."

Hudson praised Economic Developer Greg Icard, who played a pivotal role in bringing the business to Gibson and in making successful application for building reuse funds.

Jason Guyot, owner of Woodlawn Swing Sets, said, "Scotland County is where we want to be, and we expect this additional facility to assist our company in meeting our expectations for growth in the market."

Woodlawn Swing Sets, based in Cedar Springs, MI, produces high quality swing sets available in a variety of models.

Organic waste converter business plans move to area

Veridian Biomass, a company that converts organic waste into fuel, moved closer to its objective to locate an 85-acre tract of land owned by St. Andrews Presbyterian College.

The May 3 approval by the Commissioners for a conditional use permit presented the green-light for the company to seek the appropriate State and federal permits in order to operate.

The company will make a \$14 million capital investment and create 12 jobs when it becomes operational. Construction is expected to start in December with production targeted to begin in late spring 2011.

Veridian Biomass converts biosolids, food waste, wood waste and yard waste into fuel. All of the waste is combined into a machine called a biodryer.

The biodryer blends all materials in a process similar to composting. The process takes approximately 14 to 16 days to complete.

Once the combined materials come out of the biodryer, they are sold to coal-fired power plants, cement kilns and greenhouses. The end product can be burned to produce energy.

Disney World in Orlando, for instance, uses the same technology to take care of all food waste from its hotels.

"We are excited that this project will bring additional jobs and new investment to Scotland County," said Economic Developer Greg Icard.

"The technology is forward thinking and, combined with the solar site that will soon begin construction, puts the County in the forefront in renewable energy."

Report to the People takes guests on an experiential community tour

Cooperative Extension demonstrated just how extensive its reach is into the community when the agency hosted its annual Report to the People.

From the Bagpiper Restaurant at Scotland High School to the T.G. Gibson swine operation near the Richmond County border, more than 50 participants, including Senator Bill Purcell and Representative Garland Pierce, learned first-hand what Cooperative Extension staff does in the way of education, wellness and human enrichment.

While eating breakfast at the Bagpiper, participants heard oral testimony on the past year's successful programs — 4-H Sewing Club, Community Shred-It, Parenting Matters and Healthy Eating.

From that point, participants took a shuttle bus and vehicles for site visits, the first of which was Covington Street School where kindergarteners showed off their fitness skills.

At Hampton Inn, owner Ron Riggins praised Cooperative Extension for its NC Hospitality course, which gave Hampton Inn and Champs staff opportunity to enhance their customer service skills.



Melissa Tomas, right, discusses the Sycamore Lane school garden project.

The Extension's Community Garden Coordinator Melissa Tomas discussed a five-year grant that literally provided the seeds for a school garden project at Sycamore Lane.

The Town of Wagram also was selected as a garden site. The program will assist low-income families to reduce food costs, increase nutritional knowledge and engage youth in agri-entrepreneurial activities.

Grandparents as Parents members Lillie Wilson and Mary Harrington met the tour group at Scotland Place to discuss what they learned in the Fix it Safe program, an EFNEP course that

promotes safe food handling to prevent certain foodborne pathogens.

State educational recertification classes result in successful swine operations. Area Livestock Agent Randy Wood hosted visitors to the T.G. Gibson Farm to show them one example of an efficiently run swine operation.

Below are some Cooperative Extension statistics for 2009.

- 17,777 clients served
- 560 volunteers contributed 5,610 hours at a dollar value of \$113,603
- 215 clients certified; 44 recertified in pesticide application
- 5 clients certified as crop advisors
- 9 clients certified; 5 recertified in animal wasteland applications
- 8,585 website visits

Save big with library use

Scotland Memorial Library saves users money. That's right. Scotland Memorial Library saves users money.

Library patrons can now use the Scotland Memorial Library Value Calculator to find out how much the library services used during a month equal in real dollar amounts.

Books, movies, computer/internet, meeting rooms, newspapers and magazines — which library services are you using at no cost to you?

www.scotlandcolibrary.com/librarycalculator.cfm will

help you calculate how much your library's services are worth to you.

Value Calculator was adapted from the original Library Service Calculator provided by the Massachusetts Library Association.

You probably don't think about this on a regular basis, but considering the current economic times, Scotland Memorial Library is a great value.



Kindergartners at Covington Street School dance their way to health with the help of 4-H EFNEP Associate Hazel McPhatter, right.

Health Tip

Use a sunscreen with a sun protection factor (SPF) of 15 or higher. The SPF number represents the level of protection against UVB rays, the kind that cause most skin cancers. A higher number means more protection. Sunscreens labeled "broad spectrum" also protect against UVA rays, which also play a role in skin cancer. Use a palmful of sunscreen to cover your arms, legs, neck and face. Reapply every two hours — more often if you are swimming or sweating.

Innovative emergency equipment on display at All Hazards conference



While attending the 2010 NCEM All Hazards conference at Sunset Beach, EMS Director Roylin Hammond recorded a few unique innovations like a refitted NASCAR trailer, now used by the NC Baptist Men as a tool and supply trailer for rebuilding homes damaged in a disaster, and a 37-foot inflatable portable antenna used in an emergency situation when a regular antenna tower is damaged by a disaster. It only weights 43 pounds and inflates in three minutes.

Legislators indicate support of key issues

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Commissioner John Alford said it would be a hardship to shift additional inmate costs to counties since jails in general are overcrowded. For Scotland County, in particular, it can't even complete final construction of its own jail, Alford explained.

Patterson added, "We are trying not to complain too much, and we appreciate the dilemma the State is facing."

Local officials did support legislation that would allow counties greater flexibility in use of E-911 funds.

Currently, the funds can only be used for equipment to answer the call, not to process the call or to ensure emergency aid is received.

Although not an issue in the short session, the Commissioners asked the three area legislators not to support the transfer of maintenance costs for secondary roads to counties. With the exception of three or four large counties, all other counties, Scotland County included, have adopted resolutions opposing any legislation of this nature.

Commissioner Joyce McDow thanked the legislators for their continued support of Richmond Community College, which has experienced a surge in enrollment since the economic downturn.

Commissioners Alford, Davis and McDow discussed their concerns about the proliferation of gambling establishments and the County's inability to restrict gaming operations without enabling legislation.

Yongue encouraged the Scotland County visitors to do what they can to find other revenue sources. He added, "We (the State) will do what we can to promote job growth, particularly in rural areas."

Murals welcome agency visitors



The Health Department collaborated with art students at Scotland High School to paint murals at the agency. Art teacher Eric Gray and the students designed a pictorial display of public health with information they learned from health agency staff. Thanks to their talents, the Health Department now features a colorful, customer-friendly entrance to welcome patients and visitors.

Introductions & transitions

Welcome to those individuals who joined Scotland County departments since March 16, 2010: **Isabelle Woods** and **Janet Mudd**, DSS.

the Birthday list for June

2 Linda Locklear (Tax); **4** Travis Stone (Sheriff) and Andrea Anderson (DSS); **5** Dorothy Fields and Melinda McKoy (DSS), Stephanie McDonald (Cooperative Extension) and Barbara Mack (Health); **6** Leroy Davis (Public Buildings); **7** Bryant Higgins (Public Works) and Mary Ann Reynolds (Sheriff); **8** Sherry Lane (Library); **11** Carolyn Allen (DSS); **12** Sharon Davis (Transportation); **13** Ronnie Tunstall (EMS); **14** Eva Locklear (DSS), Kevin Rader (Sheriff) and Reginald Franklin (EMS); **15** Vincent Price (EMS); **16** Benjamin Hunt (EMS); **17** Brooke Hubbard (DSS); **18** Crystal McNair (Jail); **20** Leon Butler (Public Buildings); **21** Linda Holland (Administration) and Tina Bormet and Garrett Dial (EMS); **22** Greg Icard (Administration); **23** Selena Locklear (Health); **24** Pamela Reed (DSS); **25** Annie Freeman (Cooperative Extension); **27** Jonathan Dunn (Sheriff) and Evangela McArthur and Lisa Lundy (Health); **28** Sheryl Primus and Tenasha Goins (DSS) and Glenn Tucker (EMS); **29** Vicki Barnes (DSS); **30** Randy Wood (Cooperative Extension).

News of Note

Program provides lessons for teen parents

Adult EFNEP (Expanded Food and Nutrition Education Program) provided an educational nutrition program to teen parents at East Laurinburg School. Upon completion the students were presented with a cookbook, certificate and they prepared a healthy meal. The class was led by Umeko Terry, Adult EFNEP Assistant.



Become a Parks and Recreation facebook fan

Scotland County Parks and Recreation and Scotland Place Senior Center now have a facebook presence. Facebook allows Parks and Recreation and the Senior Center to add photos and keep citizens up to date on all current activities going on at Scotland County Parks and Recreation. If you already are a member of Facebook simply type in Scotland County Parks and Recreation or Scotland Place Senior Center. Another option is to go to the www.scotlandcountyparksandrecreation.org website and click on the facebook pages link. Become a fan and keep current on upcoming events.

DSS employee joins walk to fight MS

Nicole Robinson, DSS, registered for May 15 Walk MS at Honeycutt Park in Fayetteville. "I want to help those who have been diagnosed with multiple sclerosis and have to live out every day with the unpredictable effects of this disease," Robinson explained. "There is currently no cure for multiple sclerosis, and I want to be a part of finding the cure. Most people diagnosed are between the ages of 20 and 50, and thus face a lifetime of disabling effects and unpredictability. Walk MS is one way to help create a world free of MS."

Clean School Jam winners announced

Students at Scotland County Schools were challenged to advance efforts in recycling, beautification and litter prevention. Sponsored by the Laurinburg/Scotland County Area Chamber of Commerce with assistance from Solid Waste Enforcement Officer Bobby Horne, students were inspired to clean up and beautify their schools. Winners named were Wagram Primary for recycling, South Scotland for beautification and North Laurinburg for litter prevention. Spring Hill was named overall winner.

EMStatistics

EMS Report for April:

Responded to 416 Medical/Trauma calls

Treated 41 total traffic accident patients

Animal Control calls after hours/emergency 18

Sold 9 blue address signs

911 Report Highlights:

407 EMS

383 Sheriff's Department

390 Laurinburg Police Department

56 Fire Department

861 hang-up calls

91 wrong numbers

65 open line calls

1,890 cellular calls

2,529 total calls to 911

Top five complaints for EMS

Response

66 sick person (specific diagnosis)

46 breathing problems

42 transfer/interfacility/palliative care

41 traffic accidents (total patients)

31 falls/back injuries (traumatic)

Weather Observations

(EMS Recordings)

Temp (high) 92 on 4/6

Temp (low) 41 on 4/11,29

Wind (mph) 27 on 4/8

Rainfall (inches) .3 on 4/9

Compiled by Tommy Hatcher

Officials tour local RCC campus

Richmond Community College President Dale McInnis, right, led a tour for County Commissioners of the Scotland campus, now under construction.

The high, open ceiling format for the new heating and air conditioning program enhance the hands-on approach to learning the trade.

The RCC Scotland facility at just under 20,000-square-feet also offers classrooms and laboratory for a practical nursing program as well as a large conference/banquet room.

Construction of the \$3.5 million dollar campus is expected to be completed in June 2010 with classes scheduled for the fall 2010 semester.

Pictured with McInnis are, left to right, Economic Developer Greg Icard, Commissioners Bob Davis, Joyce McDow, John Alford and Guy McCook and Chairman J.D. Willis.



Senior Games participation increases

The 2010 Scotland County Senior Games, April 30 to May 7, celebrated fitness, family, fun and fellowship with 120 participants in the programs, and increase from the 87 seniors who participated in the 2009 games.

Seniors competed in a variety of athletic events including track, bocce, shuffleboard, horseshoes, croquet, bowling, aquatic activities, chair volleyball, football throw, softball throw, spin casting and basketball shooting.

The Silver Arts program provided local artists and writers the opportunity to submit their work in art, writing, crafts and performance categories.

A first at Senior Games was the addition of the Scotland SAS (Scotland Athletic Seniors) cheerleading group.

Athletic participants placing 1st, 2nd or 3rd and Heritage and Visual Artist participants placing 1st and 2nd and Best of Show in Performing Arts advance to the State level competitions in Raleigh September 13 to October 13.

Scotland High volunteers assisted in the local competitions by preparing the bocce courts and running track events at the high school.



Tony Harrington competes in the running long jump.

Post Scripts

Congratulations to **Jan-Marie F. Mathews**, DSS, on the April 28 birth of granddaughter Kylie Ryan Purvis. ❄️ **Susan Butler**, Administration, was appointed to the Eastern Sandhills Advisory Council of the Local Government Federal Credit Union (LGFCU). Advisory council members serve as liaisons between credit union members and non-members and LGFCU management and function as the LGFCU's eyes and ears throughout the State. ❄️ Alyssa K. Douglas, 8, a 2nd grade student at Laurel Hill Elementary, received an honorable mention at the May 15 Children's Art Festival in downtown Laurinburg. Alyssa, daughter of **Roxanne Douglas**, DSS, received the recognition for her interpretation of Monet's *Garden* using crayons and water paint.

Our condolences to **Sherry Lane**, Library, on the May 24 death of her father L.J. Watts, and to **Brooks Watts**, Library, grandson of L.J. Watts.

\$49K Rural Center grant helps start Wagram business

The County received a \$49,000 grant from the NC Rural Economic Development Center, which will be used to create five jobs and help renovate the vacant Post Office building in Wagram.

The building will be transformed into a produce and meat market as part of the Rural Center's Reuse and Restoration Program.

Mac's Produce and Meat Market, owned by Linda McLaughlin, will stock fresh produce and meat with an emphasis on providing locally grown vegetables and fruits. A grocery delivery service will be available to those who are not able to come to the store to purchase products.

The \$49,000 grant requires that the applicants match the entire amount dollar for dollar and hire five employees within a specified timeframe. Renovations will begin immediately. A July 2010 opening is planned.

"This project is an example of the effort and focus placed on growing our own jobs in the County," said Economic Developer Greg Icard. "The County will continue to work diligently to redevelop vacant buildings in the community to maximize business and job growth opportunities for residents."