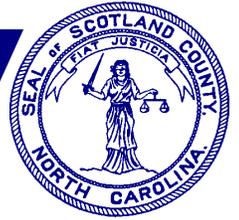


Scotland County

Monthly



MARCH 2010

A newsletter for Scotland County employees

Local officials request 2011 federal funding

County and Laurinburg City officials visited Washington, D.C., to make 2011 appropriations requests to the local congressional leaders.

Commissioners Bob Davis and Guy McCook, County Manager Kevin Patterson and Economic Developer Greg Icard made the day-long trip.

Topping the priority list was the runway re-surfacing project at Laurinburg/Maxon Airport. The County, City of Laurinburg, Town of Maxton and the Laurinburg/Maxton Airport Commission requested \$1.03 million for runway repairs so aircraft up to 210,000 pounds could land.

The County also requested \$350,000 for the Emergency Operations Center and \$500,000 for an expansion of the Senior Wellness Center to better serve the County's senior population.

A \$600,000 request was made to fund a study at Laurinburg/Maxton Airport to determine the feasibility of creating an Intermodal Industrial Complex. The congressional members vowed to work diligently on behalf of the County.

If you have not received your Census questionnaire by April 12, call 1-866-872-6868 to request one.

Bicycle map features a 147-mile visual experience

Brochures for *Bicycling Scotland County*, a project three years in the making, are now available to cycling and nature enthusiasts at Parks and Recreation offices and through the NC Department of Transportation.

The brochure features 114 miles of cycling opportunities, divided into three routes, as well as 33 miles in connector routes.

The 26-mile purple route, begins at the Scotland/Hoke border and travels southward to Old Stage Road at the South Carolina border.

The 64-mile green route loops counterclockwise around the County beginning at the James L. Morgan Recreation Complex where cyclists can enjoy views of some of the more historic sites in the County.

The orange route begins east near Laurinburg-Maxton Airport, continues through downtown Laurinburg, southwest into Gibson and northeast into Laurel Hill.

A 33-mile connector route, highlighted in dark yellow, allows cyclists to customize their routes.

The routes were developed by a committee of local residents and active cyclists as well as the Parks and Recreation Department and the NC Department of Transportation.

The Scotland County map project was funded by the NC Department of Transportation.



Gholston, Icard take China trip with national Chamber group

Economic Developer Greg Icard and Commissioner Betty Blue Gholston spent eight days in China on a fact-finding mission to learn about the country's business, industry and cultural activities.

Icard and Gholston were part of a larger group of more than 150 American Chamber of Commerce Executives (ACCE) from across the country who made the trip.

Icard responded to questions about the trip and what, in his opinion, made it worthwhile.

What are your impressions of China?

To state the obvious, large population. It is overwhelming at first, but you begin to acclimate to the mass of people that are always around you, not to mention the amount of traffic and lack of rules on the road. It was basically every man for himself.

Also, China is diverse with many different dialects of the Chinese language. It also has a rich and long history. The United States is

really in its infancy compared to that of China.

What opportunities might China bring to Scotland County?

There are two areas of opportunities. First is the potential to bring a Chinese company to Scotland County, for example, one that is currently in China but wants to begin to market their product in the U.S.

The second is the potential for companies in Scotland County to export their products to the Chinese market.

With 1.3 billion citizens who call China home, there is a large number of potential customers that could purchase products, goods or services provided by a company in Scotland County or North Carolina.

I have been told but have not verified that China is the second highest country in receiving exports from North Carolina. Canada is first.



Economic Developer Greg Icard at the Great Wall.

see China, page 2

Icard shares thoughts on China visit

continued from page 1

What are threats to China right now, business and industry-wise?

From what I learned during my time in China, there are several issues or threats that exist. From the human resource side, China has a deficit of white-collar employees.



Commissioner Betty Blue Gholston, left, attends a business dinner for the visiting executives.

Despite the 1.3 billion total population, they do not have enough middle management so the potential pool of applicants is lacking and competition is pretty fierce. This has caused wages for these positions to increase.

An additional issue is wages are beginning to rise so that it is not as profitable for companies to produce or manufacture there.

Companies are moving further inland within China as well as to other areas such as Vietnam or the Philippines. China is beginning to see unemployment from foreign investment companies as a result.

What was the highlight of your trip?

My highlight was visiting the Great Wall of China. My grandfather was stationed at the Great Wall (as a Marine) during World War II for a year. I don't know exactly where he was along the more than 4,000 miles that makes up the wall, but it was neat to visit an area where he served during WWII.

Was the trip to China worth your time and why?

The trip to China was definitely worth my time. Seeing things there with my own eyes provided a perspective that I would have never gained by reading about it. The ability to see the amount of construction and infrastructure development was indescribable. Unless you are there to see it personally, it is hard to grasp.

I was also able to pick up an understanding of the culture and business practices as they compare to ours, which will assist me as I work to recruit companies, whether American or foreign.

Icard's trip was funded by the County and through a Progress Energy sponsorship. Commissioner Gholston personally paid for her trip.

Library helps food bank

Library employee Louise Williams packs food items in boxes for delivery to Church Community Services.

Four boxes of non-perishable foods were collected during a three-week Food for Fines program February 1 to 20. Fines totaling \$268 were waived as patrons paid for their overdue charges with non-perishable food items.

Through the community's thoughtfulness, the Church Community Services food bank received more than 130 items to re-stock their shelves.



Fourth graders plant Loblolly pine saplings

Fourth grade classes at various schools throughout the County celebrated Arbor Day with Amy Richburg and Martha Norfleet. The Scotland Soil and Water Conservation staff provided Loblolly pine saplings for the children to plant at their respective schools.

Nine schools, including 27 classes, participated in the "outdoor" time. The children dug holes, placed the trees, filled in dirt and watered the saplings.

Teachers and students received Arbor Day handouts, and each class received a recognition certificate for observing the special day.



Recycling a Scotia topic

J.R. "Bobby" Home, center, encourages Scotia Village staff to distribute recycling materials to residents. Home gave a presentation on recycling to about two dozen Scotia residents and staff March 1. Home explained how to report someone who litters and thanked residents for doing such a great job keeping the Scotia Village community clean. Attendees received litter bags, stickers, pencils made from recycled newspapers and postcards used for reporting a littering event.

Introductions & transitions

Welcome to those individuals who joined Scotland County departments since January 16, 2010: **Gwendolyn Bennett**, Public Works.

the Birthday list for April

- 1** Mark Jackson (EMS); **4** Glenn Chatman (Public Works) and Randall Gibson (EMS) and Buffie Hunt (EMS); **6** Shekesha McPhatter (DSS); **9** Joy Davis (Library); **12** Betty Smith (Health) and Michael Alford (Parks and Recreation); **14** Jimmy King (Parks and Recreation), William Edge (Sheriff), Kisse Phy (EMS) and Lakeisha Buie (DSS); **15** Melinda Salley (Health); **16** Erica Hall (Health), Jerry Johnson (Elections), Alan Stewart (Recreation Complex) and Tammy Cole (DSS); **17** Persephone Stewart (DSS); **18** April Snead (DSS); **19** Robert McRae (Transportation); **20** Sandra McNeil (DSS); **21** Patricia Campbell (Public Buildings); **22** James Britt (Sheriff) and Madeline Peele (DSS); **23** Roger Alford (Jail); **24** Marty Pate (Revaluation); **25** Sandra Miller (Jail); **27** Tina Clark (Health); **28** Sandy McCrimmon (Transportation) and Sharon English (Cooperative Extension); **29** Debra Sandlin (EMS).

Sugared beverages come with a cost

As part of the March National Nutrition Month, WIC Program Director Cardra Burns emailed employees daily with instructions on ways to improve their lives through better nutrition and wellness practices.

The information campaign is held annually in March by the American Dietetic Association.

This year's campaign, *Nutrition From the Ground Up*, focused on back to basics, simple and economical healthy foods, food preparation, family meals at home and health promotion.

The following is one tip Burns shared to help individuals eat right and become healthier.

"We're pretty used to paying taxes on most purchases, but what would you think if there was an extra tax on sugared beverages?"

"The idea of levying taxes on sugared beverages is being discussed by New York City officials in the wake of studies indicating these drinks are associated with increased body weight, poor nutrition and reduced intake of more healthful beverages.

"The idea is that the extra taxes on sugared beverages would encourage consumers to opt for more healthful hydration.

"Whether sugared beverages ever carry an extra tax or not, it is important to understand the impact such drinks can have on your diet and health.

"One can of a sugared beverage accounts for about 200 calories, on average. Consuming one can every day can translate into about eight pounds of weight gain in a year.

"So reduce your calories (and maybe your tax bite in NYC) by watching your intake of sugared beverages."

Source: American Dietetic Association



Commissioner Bob Davis, left, was interviewed by Gary Gallman of WLNC. The two discussed the importance of the Census. Davis also responded to Gallman's questions about renewed landfill discussions and how the Community Assistance Grants are distributed by Commissioners.

News of Note

Celebrate Census Day April 1

Census Day April 1 will be celebrated 10 a.m. to 12 p.m. in front of the Storytelling Arts Center in downtown Laurinburg. Hosted by the Scotland County Complete Count Committee, the event will feature refreshments and promotional give away items. Gary Gallman of WLNC will broadcast live and interview participants from the window of the Storytelling Arts Center. Census representatives will be on hand to answer questions and help people fill out their questionnaires.

Library hosts poetry reading

Scotland Memorial Library partnered with St. Andrews Presbyterian College to host a poetry reading. St. Andrews student James Leggett was the featured reader March 24. A first-year student from Montclair, NJ, majoring in creative writing, Leggett read his poetry as part of the Gilbert-Chappell Distinguished Poet Series, sponsored by the North Carolina Poetry Society. In this series, poets from various colleges or universities are invited to apply to be mentored by a Distinguished Poet (DP) in eastern, central or western North Carolina. Leggett has been working with the central North Carolina Distinguished Poet Becky Gould Gibson.

Unaffiliated voters have choices

In order for an unaffiliated voter to vote in a Democratic or Republican Primary, the State Democratic or Republican party must agree to allow them to vote. Both parties have authorized unaffiliated voters to vote in their 2010 Primary. Upon entering the polling place, unaffiliated voters must give their name, address and party to an election official at the registration station. If you are properly registered to vote, you will be asked what ballot you wish to vote — Democratic, Republican or unaffiliated. If you choose either the Democratic or Republican ballot, you will be given the Democratic or Republican ballot assigned to the precinct in which you are registered. If you choose unaffiliated, the ballot will reflect unaffiliated candidates for judges and school board members only. In case there is a second Primary, and you voted in the first Primary and wish to vote in the Second Primary, you must vote the same style ballot as you did in the first Primary. Voting this way will not change the Voter Party affiliation.

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.

Rettig advocates for public transportation priorities

Transportation Coordinator Gracie Rettig was among the NCPTA (North Carolina Public Transportation Association) Board members who took a legislative trip to Washington D.C. March 14 to 18 to advocate for the needs of public transportation. The group met with its area Congressmen and other Representatives. Rettig met with Representative Larry Kissell and Senators Kay Hagen and Richard Burr. Top public transportation priorities are: secure more federal funding to support bus replacement needs throughout North Carolina, secure more funding for construction of transit maintenance facilities, investment in public transportation needs to be included in any future jobs bill, advance key priorities in the upcoming reauthorization of SAFETEA-LU to support a multi-year bill that reassures states that they can make long-term commitments necessary to improve public transportation and greater investment in public transportation as part of climate change legislation. Public transportation already reduces carbon-dioxide emissions by 37 million metric tons a year. In 2009, 68 million trips were taken on public transportation in North Carolina. Public transit provides access to job opportunities for thousands of State residents.

Health intern discusses heart disease

Health Department Intern Tiffany Nunn, left, took the reins of the monthly Lunch and Learn event with a presentation on *Women, Hormones and Heart Disease*.



A UNC-P senior majoring in health promotion and community development, Nunn selected the topic because she had witnessed the death of several women in their forties who ignored the signs of heart disease.

Nunn's January to May internship is supervised by Health Educator Kathie Cox.

While at the agency, Nunn is developing a teen health page on Facebook with the Health Department as its sponsor, assist Cox with

programs, write articles for Public Health Matters and develop presentations on a variety of health-related topics.

EMStatistics

EMS Report for February:

Responded to 332 Medical/Trauma calls

Treated 25 total traffic accident patients

Animal Control calls after hours/emergency 17

Sold 8 blue address signs

911 Report Highlights:

328 EMS

260 Sheriff's Department

276 Laurinburg Police Department

51 Fire Department

814 hang-up calls

90 wrong numbers

44 open line calls

1,655 cellular calls

2,146 total calls to 911

Top five complaints for EMS

Response

75 sick person (specific diagnosis)

37 chest pain

35 transfer/interfacility/palliative care

27 breathing problems and falls/back injuries

25 traffic accidents (total patients)

Weather Observations

(EMS Recordings)

Temp (high) 67 on 2/21

Temp (low) 23 on 2/14,17

Wind (mph) 33 on 2/10

Rainfall (inches) 1.55 on 2/5

Compiled by Tommy Hatcher



Envirothon supported

The Scotland County Farm Bureau made a donation to the Scotland Soil and Water Conservation District to support the March 31 NCASWCD Area VII Envirothon, a problem solving natural resource competition for middle and high school students. Participants from Scotland County as well as eight other counties are tested on their knowledge of natural resources — soils, forestry, wildlife, aquatics and current environmental issues. Winning teams will compete in a State contest, and the winning high school team will compete in the international contest. Pictured left to right are Scotland County Farm Bureau Women's Chairperson Joanne Barnhill, Farm Bureau Member Diane Stokes, Farm Bureau Secretary and Treasurer April Snead, Farm Bureau Board President Joe Barnhill, Soil and Water Conservation District Director Amy Richburg and Farm Bureau Vice President Bill Carmichael.

EMS shares comparative statistics

It takes 53 seconds from the time 911 receives a call until the ambulance is en route. State average is 1 minute 19 seconds. Rural average is 1 minute, 45 seconds. EMS Director Roylin Hammond shared this and other statistics recently with the Board of Commissioners.

EMS response time from leaving the building to the call: 7 minutes, 8 seconds. State is 8 minutes, 32 seconds. Rural average 9 minutes, 25 seconds.

On September 6, 2009, EMS answered 32 calls. There were no calls August 1, 2009. The busiest time of the day is 10 a.m. to 11 a.m. and 6 p.m. to 7 p.m. Hammond said there is no explanation for this trend.

Average response time to get a patient from the scene to the hospital, 8 minutes, 29 seconds. State average is 15 minutes. "Our average distance is 4.9 miles while the State's average distance is 8.8 miles," explained Hammond. "It's very important to be in a small county. The rural average is 15 minutes, but their average distance is 10 miles."

It takes about 15 minutes for Scotland County EMS to arrive on the scene and return. "We're back in service in 15 minutes, 6 seconds," Hammond said. State average is 24 minutes. Rural average is 21 minutes.

The time 911 comes in to the time EMS is back in service is 41 minutes. State average is 49 minutes. Rural average is 51 minutes.

It takes 2 minutes, 2 seconds to process a call. State is 1 minute, 39 seconds. Rural average is 1 minute, 43 seconds. "We need to address that, but we're not too far off from the averages," Hammond said.

Post Scripts

Congratulations to **Mike McGirt**, Public Buildings, on the March 6 marriage of his son Michael Anthony McGirt to Melissa Snead. ❀ **Tisha Moody**, DSS, celebrated her induction into the Fayetteville State University Chapter of Tau Sigma Honor Society March 29 and on her inclusion on the Chancellor's List for maintaining a 4.0 GPA. ❀ **Debra Holcomb**, Register of Deeds, welcomed grandson Austin Crowell Holcomb, born March 12. ❀ **Melissa Tomas** joined Cooperative Extension as the new Community Garden Coordinator. Scotland County is one of three counties in the State chosen to participate in CYFAR (Children Youth Families At Risk), which funded the position. Tomas will start a community garden in the area and also will work on school gardens around the County. Tomas earned a B.S. degree in Extension Education and a Master's Degree in Agricultural Education, both from North Carolina State University. In addition, she holds her North Carolina teaching license for grades 9-12 in Agricultural Education.



Melissa Tomas