

APRIL 2015



Scotland County, NC

A newsletter for the Scotland County community

Coffee with a Cop based on building relationships

McDonald's, or any local eatery, is the perfect neutral space where community issues can be discussed and where relationships can be built, all over a cup of coffee.

That's why the Sheriff's Office launched Coffee with a Cop April 6, with its first stop scheduled for McDonald's.

The event began at 7a.m. when officers from the Sheriff's Department met with the community over coffee.

Coffee with a Cop provides a unique opportunity for community members to ask questions and learn more about work conducted by the Sheriff's Office in County neighborhoods.

Most contact law enforcement officials have with the public occurs during emergencies or emotional situations, which are not always the most effective times for relationship building with the community. Some community members may feel that officers are unapproachable on the street.

Coffee with a Cop breaks down barriers and allows for a relaxed, one-on-one interaction.

"We hope that community members will feel comfortable to ask questions, bring concerns or simply get to know our officers," said Sheriff Ralph Kersey. "These interactions are the foundation of community partnerships." [see Coffee, page 4](#)



Captain Rodney Tucker, left, and Deputy Jessica Sadovnikov talk with community members during Coffee with a Cop at McDonald's. Photo by Rebecca Riggs, Sheriff's Office.

Laurel Hill Community Center cost assessment reviewed

The Parks and Recreation Advisory Board will weigh cost versus benefit when it studies the short and long-term options for the Laurel Hill Community Center (LHCC).

Public Buildings staff presented the Advisory Board with an assessment to repair LHCC at an estimated cost of \$422,650 — \$124,850 for the auditorium, \$94,850 for the classroom building, \$108,750 for the gymnasium and \$70,000 for HVAC.

According to the assessment conducted by Public Buildings and Grounds Supervisor Mike McGirt and Carpenter Jeremy Peele, the condition of the doors and windows, fascia and gutters, interiors and exteriors and HVAC were reviewed.

When the Advisory Board does make a recommendation to the Commissioners, it will be based on the assessment as well as input from the Laurel Hill Community Center Committee made up of a group of Laurel Hill residents concerned about the future of LHCC.

The Parks and Recreation Advisory Board also expressed concern about how frequently LHCC would be used by the community.

With a population of 6,800 in Laurel Hill, Old Hundred and Gibson, the greater Laurel Hill area makes up 19 percent of Scotland County's total population of 35,576. Of that, 1,881 are school age and 1,798 are 55 and older. 3114 are 20 to 54 years of age, and the median age is 39.7.

Parks and Recreation Director Shannon Newton discussed the reasons for closing LHCC in 2009. She said the annual LHCC total [see Costs page 4](#)

Iron Horse to auction foreclosed property for County

Numerous foreclosed properties countywide will be auctioned off April 29 to May 7. "This is the result of the foreclosure program the County instituted in 2010 using Zacchaeus Legal Services in order to improve property tax collections and get rid of multi-year pass-through taxes, especially on abandoned property," said County Manager Kevin Patterson.

The County has acquired approximately 40 properties through the foreclosure program. "We're looking to put those properties back into private hands through private auction," Patterson said.

The County selected Iron Horse in Rockingham to conduct the auction online. Anyone can register with Iron Horse on its website to bid on the properties.

The final day of the auction, which is May 7, Iron Horse will be at the Small Business Innovation Center. "It will serve as an auction center," Patterson said. "Iron Horse staff will be there to help people place bids who do not want to bid online."

Bids will not close within 10 minutes of any other bid. "If bids come in one minute before it closes, that means it's automatically extended 10 minutes to allow for competitive bidding," Patterson explained.

The Speller Building, the former Monarch Building on Biggs Street, the old Mobile Home Estates property and the former Indian Museum on Turnpike Road are among the properties being auctioned.

[see Auction page 4](#)

Staff practice ABCs of fire safety



The Laurinburg City Fire Department facilitated the training at the Government Complex. Photo by Roylin Hammond, EMS.

A number of first responders and County employees learned the ABCs of fire extinguishers and the importance of the acronym PASS when it comes to putting out fires.

Pull, Aim, Squeeze and Sweep is PASS. This will allow the discharge of the extinguisher.

Pull the pin at the top of the extinguisher to release a locking mechanism in order to discharge the extinguisher. Aim at the base of the fire, not the flames. Squeeze the lever slowly to release the extinguishing agent in the extinguisher. Sweep from side to side and move the fire extinguisher back and forth until the fire is completely out.

Operate the extinguisher from a safe distance, several feet away, and then move towards the fire once it starts to diminish.

Not all fire extinguishers are the same. Class A extinguishers are for ordinary combustible materials such as paper, wood, cardboard and most plastics. Its geometric symbol is a green triangle.

Class B fires involve flammable or combustible liquids such as gasoline, kerosene, grease and oil. Its geometric symbol is a red square.

Class C fires involve electrical equipment, such as appliances, wiring, circuit breakers and outlets. Its geometric symbol is a blue circle. Never use water to extinguish class C fires.

A fire needs three things to start and continue burning — oxygen, fuel and heat.



Elections Director Dell Parker practices Pull, Aim, Squeeze and Sweep while Fire Inspector Bud McAllister watches.

Our condolences to ...

Ricky Wright, Public Buildings, on the April 10 passing of his wife, Gertrude Wright; **Cory Baldwin**, EMS retiree, on the April 11 passing of his son, Justin Garrett Baldwin.

Post Scripts

Welcome to those employees who were hired since February 16: **Jonathan Lemmond** and **Manuel Campbell**, E-911 Center; **Andrew Walker**, EMS; **Stephanie Hudson**, Jail; **Eddie McLaurin** and **Liston Watts**, Public Buildings; and **David Shankle** and **Jessica Sadovnikov**, Sheriff. ❁ Congratulations to **Ann Locklear**, Library, on the April 17 birth of her first grandchild, Avalyn Grace Locklear.

A Change of Venue

The May 4 regular monthly meeting of the Scotland County Board of Commissioners will be at the Emergency Operations Center Meeting Room, 1403 West Boulevard. The meeting begins at 7 p.m.

News of Note

Availability fees for solid waste studied

The Board of Commissioners over the next several months will continue to study the option of imposing an availability fee on improved properties for solid waste removal. The Commissioners view this step as a necessity. Chairman Guy McCook said, "This has been coming for a long time. Over the last several years we've increased fees. We're looking at ways to try to increase revenue without dramatically increasing costs to our citizens. But the truth of the matter is we've got to treat it a little bit more like a business. We're losing money out there every year, and we're going to have to find a way to increase the revenue. The big issue is that the volumes have dropped dramatically in the last 10 to 15 years, so the revenues have dropped along with that."

Take the homemade raft challenge

The 2015 Chalk Banks Challenge and River Festival featuring raft, canoe and kayak races, a 5K trail run, kids games, vendors and more will be held Saturday May 16. The day begins at 8 a.m. with registrations for the trail run and river races. The festival officially opens at 10 a.m. The highlight of the day is the homemade raft race. A Scotland County tradition, rafts must be homemade and not motorized in any way. Raft races are divided into two classes: single person and group (two or more people). Register online at www.chalkbanks-register.com.

Public health readies for vaccine changes

An Immunization Lunch and Learn meeting sponsored by the Health Department focused on changes in the immunization rules relating to school entry requirements. The North Carolina Commission for Public Health approved new vaccine requirements to more closely align North Carolina with current Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices recommendations. The changes will take effect beginning with the 2015-2016 school year for students entering kindergarten and seventh grade. The Immunization Lunch and Learn was repeated for Health Department staff on April 28. Any questions concerning immunizations or the new changes can contact Tina Ellis, SCHD Immunization Nurse. Any children needing immunizations can receive them 8 a.m. to 5 p.m., Monday to Friday, by appointment.

County health profiles available online

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention maintains a Community Health Status Indicators 2015 webpage, an interactive web application that produces health profiles for all 3,143 counties in the United States. Each profile includes key indicators of health outcomes, which describe the population health status of a county and factors that have the potential to influence health outcomes, such as health care access and quality, health behaviors, social factors and the physical environment. It builds upon data from the County Health Rankings and Roadmaps, America's Health Rankings, Healthy People 2020 and other sources. <http://www.cdc.gov/CommunityHealth/profile/currentprofile/NC/Scotland/>

Illegal littering/dumping fees put teeth in enforcement activity



In the before photo (above) taken January 20, the out-of-court processing fee on the illegal dumping of 340 pounds of trash was \$500. The cost to take all of it to the landfill would have been \$9.48. "People don't realize that taking their trash to the landfill is not as expensive as they think it is," said Solid Waste Enforcement Officer J.R. Horne. The case concluded March 24 and the area cleaned (below). Horne investigated the case by locating the owner, who paid the fee, gathered the trash and took it to the landfill. Photos by J.R. Horne.



J.R. Horne is grateful to the Board of Commissioners for approving a policy that helps reduce illegal littering and dumping.

The Commissioners in October 2014 approved out-of-court processing fees for illegal dumping and littering activities at County facilities and on private property.

Horne, Solid Waste Enforcement Officer for the County, said, "This is something we've wanted to do for quite some time and to try to have monies that go back to the department for the job the solid waste enforcement officer does."

Horne's office has collected \$1,900 in processing fees so far. The fees go into the landfill budget and assist Horne in doing his job. "Instead of going to court with what would be a larger fine and having a record on their name, this way, the fee is going to the landfill and they are still responsible for what they or somebody in their family has done."

The processing fees address first, second and third time offenses for improper storage of litter, open/illegal burning of solid waste, improper transportation of solid waste in unsecured loads and illegal dumping or littering for under 500 pounds and for more than 500 pounds.

Horne added, "This is a different avenue of getting people to be responsible for what's happening in their family with the trash."

"This does give us another avenue to educate people," he added. "Instead of just getting a letter and saying they didn't know, they pay a fee for this and they think about it a little bit more."

Horne added that it keeps the person who was involved in illegal dumping from having a record for going to court and taking responsibility for their actions by cleaning up the trash that was illegally dumped. "In the case of a kid, the parents are very grateful for not having to go to court."

The policy is working. "When we get the people who are illegally dumping they don't do it anymore," Horne said. "I have had situations with people where they say 'A friend of mine got a ticket from you the other day for littering and illegal dumping and they say they won't do that anymore' so I have had some response back from the public."

He added, "With the program we've got going on with the out-of-court fees, it gives me the avenue to work these cases and not have to just sit in court and wait for the judgment to occur."

"Those people who are responsible for it come forward and take responsibility because yes, it did come from their household and they are responsible to make sure it gets to the right facility," Horne explained.

He added, "This is a good tool for us to use that can bring funds into our budget. It's a good system. There are other counties that use it and are doing the same thing we're doing. It's just a good tool to have and to use."

Litter Sweep names King of the Mountain

The Spring Litter Sweep to clean up County roads brought in more than a ton of trash with seven teams picking up a total of 2,448 pounds of litter.

Girl Scout Troop 1723 captured top prize as King of the Mountain and a cash award of \$200. They picked up 756 pounds of trash.

The Murphy Brown team picked up 507 pounds of trash for second place and a \$100 prize. The teams will be honored by the Chamber of Commerce and presented with the checks on May 6.

Zerbini Circus a big top of thrills, fun



The Zerbini Family Circus set up its big top for one day and two shows at the James L. Morgan Recreation Complex.

The family-friendly event featured camel and pony rides, face painting and a jump house along with entertainment galore inside the tent.

Parks and Recreation received 20 percent of ticket sales, which was a little more than \$770.

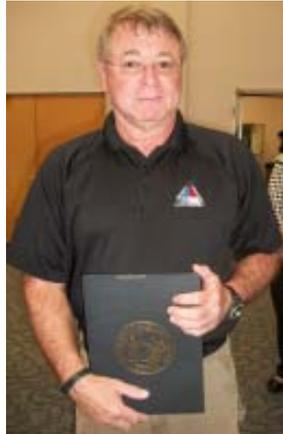
Volunteer service recognized

EMS Director Roylin Hammond received the North Carolina Governor's Award for more than 30 years of service to the community.

Hammond was recognized for his commitment to the Scotland County Rescue Squad and volunteer service with the American Red Cross and Chamber of Commerce, particularly as chief oyster cooker during the agency's annual Chamber on the Half Shell event.

Other honorees included Chaka Davis-Smith, founder of Tristan Brown's ABC Rare Disease Foundation, Hyder Massey, retired Public Buildings Supervisor and Town of Wagram Commissioner and the Saint Luke United Methodist Church Men's Ramp Team.

The Ramp Team was honored specifically for its work with the County's Aging Advisory Council building ramps that give frail shut-ins opportunity to get in and out of their homes safely. A grant paid for the ramp materials and Saint Luke Men volunteered their time to pick up the supplies and build the ramps.



Roylin Hammond

Auction set for April 29 to May 7



The Speller Building is among the estimated 40 properties that will be sold at auction.

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There are about 10 properties that the City also has claim on. "Proceeds from those properties will be allocated between the City and the County," Patterson said.

"This has triggered a lot of interest in the properties," Patterson said. "You have people who are watching specific properties, especially if they are near or adjacent to a property, it would be a great way of protecting their own property. There are some properties that could become beneficial investments."

Based on the success of this auction, Patterson was asked whether the County would do it again. "Unfortunately we will," Patterson said. "We most assuredly will have additional properties the County will foreclose on in the future."

A complete listing of properties with photos is available for viewing at the Iron Horse Auction website: at <http://ironhorseauction.com>.

The May birthday list

2 James McQueen and Rebekah Oxendine (DSS); **4** Teresa Vick and Tosha McQueen (DSS); **9** James E. McQueen and Willie Peterkin (Transportation); **10** Mike McGirt (Public Buildings) and Michelle McRae (DSS); **11** Nancy Bostick (Administration), Stephanie Berry (DSS), Felicia Faison (Health) and Lindsey Pearson (EMS); **12** Crystal Norton (Register of Deeds); **14** Dontae Roland (EMS) and Daniel P. McClellan (Sheriff); **15** Roxanne Douglas (EMS); **17** Morgan Richardson (Health) and Laura Prevatte (Jail); **18** Clarence McPhatter (Commissioner) and Rebecca Griffin (DSS); **19** Keith Faulk (Public Buildings); **20** Billie Phillips (Tax) and Christopher Littles (Parks and Recreation); **21** Bob Davis (Commissioner) and Carol Quick (DSS); **23** Dustin Bryant (EMS); **24** Pearlene Leggett (Health); **25** Miles Mack (Sheriff); **26** Jennifer Taylor (Health); **29** Dennis Currie (EMS); **31** Nadine Quick (DSS) and Wayne Mace (EMS).

Sheriff's Office launches Coffee with a Cop

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Coffee with a Cop is a national initiative supported by the United States Department of Justice, Office of Community Oriented Policing Services.

Similar events are being held across the country, as local police departments strive to make lasting connections with the communities they serve.

The program aims to advance the practice of community policing through improving relationships between police officers and community members one cup of coffee at a time.

There is no agenda or speeches, just a chance to ask questions, voice concerns and get to know the officers in your neighborhood.

Coffee with a Cop will continue the first Monday of each month. The next Coffee with a Cop will be 7 a.m. to 8:30 a.m. Monday, May 4, at Hardee's in Laurel Hill.

Laurel Hill Community Center costs reviewed

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utility costs were \$24,250. Electricity cost for the main building alone in 2009 was more than \$11,000 and more than \$2,400 for the three classrooms.

When the County took possession of LHCC in 1999, it made some improvements before opening the facility as a community center in 2000. Newton said the County closed LHCC in 2009 based on lack of use by the community, cost of utilities and an inability to fund renovations.

Members of the Laurel Hill Community Center Committee contend the building would have been used by more people, but many did not know it was available to them.

After some discussion about the Wagram Recreation Center and how it came into existence, Committee representatives agreed to develop an alternate plan as a vision for what they believe would serve as ideal recreational use at the Laurel Hill Community Center site.