

DECEMBER 2015



Scotland County, NC

A newsletter for the Scotland County community

The ABC Store facelift and what a difference a year makes

The ABC Store has a new look, and just in time for the holidays. With the exception of some cosmetic touch ups, no major work has been done to the store since it opened in 1969. That's all changed.

At a total cost of \$121,479, the roof was repaired, new computers were installed and the carpet was replaced with a wood-like flooring.

The project was funded using profits from sales at the ABC Store, some of which were designated for repairs and renovations.

ABC Board Chair Dee Hammond said, "It was a good spending of the money the County allocated to the ABC Store."

Painting and electrical work was paid for from the ABC budget. Landscaping is expected to be completed by March 2016.

"Scotland County décor also has been incorporated in the store's interior," Hammond said. "The old shelves were taken down and new shelves were put in at an angle instead of straight, which actually looks like we have more room."

Lettering inside the store is a Scottish plaid. A seal with the outline of Scotland County notes the store was established in 1969.

"The new lettering and signage is a nice touch," Hammond said. The store features display cases for some of the high end items and new track lighting for improved merchandise display.

ABC officials decided to keep the original checkout counter once it was determined that the counter would be able to accommodate a third computer for checkout. Prices of the bottles can now be scanned instead of being done by hand.

Hammond said, "We didn't know if the original counter would work but the guys who helped us design the store made it work, and it saved us a lot of money."

The old shelving is now used in the back-store warehouse, which was rearranged to make it more merchandise-friendly.

Hammond said there's been an uptick in business since the store was remodeled. "We've had a slight increase in business over last year. A lot of people are coming in for the first time and a lot of people are coming in to see what the store looks like. Everybody we've talked to who has come in thinks it's a nice change."

A grand re-opening will be held for the community this spring.

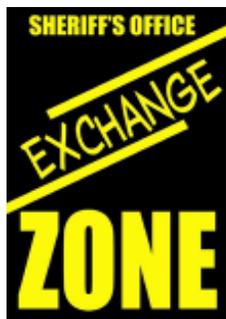


The ABC Store then and now. In November 2014, top, ABC Chair Dee Hammond and ABC Store Manager Bill Graves look forward to the remodel. Below, the store is brighter and looks more spacious with the new design.



Exchange zone established

Parking at the Sheriff's Office/Jail facility at 212 Biggs Street is now designated as an "exchange zone" for online transactions and custodial exchanges.



With the number of anonymous, online initiated transactions increasing, the Sheriff's Office responded by offering the designated space in the hopes of deterring crime.

"Our exchange zone is designed to help protect citizens from becoming victims of robberies, thefts and scams associated with online transaction sites such as Craigslist and Ebay," said Sheriff Ralph Kersey.

He added, "The area will also allow parents to have a safer location for child custody visitation exchanges."

Transactions may take place 24 hours, seven days a week at the exchange zone.

[see Zone, page 4](#)

Safety Team to conduct facilities inspections in 2016

The Safety Team will conduct quarterly inspections of County facilities in 2016.

"The Safety Team will give each area a second set of eyeballs by pairing off in twos to inspect a specific facility each quarter," said Safety Coordinator Lori Parks.

The team will check emergency exits and paths of egression to ensure they are clear and electrical outlets and electrical items that might not be approved, such as hot plates.

"The team will use a structured inspection form, and this will be coordinated with the Department Head or the safety person in that location," Parks explained.

"The Safety Team will focus primarily on populated locations where employees are actually working," Parks said. "The Department Head will determine whether the inspection will be a

[see Inspections, page 3](#)

News of Note

State accelerates two road construction projects

Two priority Scotland County transportation projects that weren't even on the radar earlier this year will see construction dates moved up as a result of the 2015 State budget signed by Governor Pat McCrory. The accelerated projects designed to increase local mobility and connectivity include upgrading the U.S. 74/future I-74 corridor from Hamlet to Laurinburg in Richmond and Scotland counties and widening U.S. 401 Business north of Laurinburg to U.S. 401 Business northeast of Raeford to a multi-lane road. Construction for the U.S. 74 project is expected to commence in FY 2022 while the widening of U.S. 401 Business to Raeford is scheduled for FY 2025.

Program introduces youth to law enforcement

Youth interested in a career in law enforcement have opportunity to participate in a program spearheaded by the Boy Scouts of America of the Cape Fear Council and Sheriff Ralph Kersey. The Scotland County Sheriff's Explorers bring ideas to Sheriff Kersey for consideration and cultivate a sense of pride and leadership among their peers. The explorer program involves itself in community events and provides Explorers with a better understanding of the laws that govern society and a hands on experience as it relates to law enforcement as a chosen career path. The post holds regularly scheduled meetings with officers who address the group on the various facets of a career in law enforcement. Presentations include such specialized fields as crime scene investigations, canine unit, domestic violence response and accident investigations. A limited job shadow program gives Explorers first-hand knowledge of a patrol officer's duties by letting the Explorer ride in a patrol vehicle or observe in the jail during a regular shift. Explorers often volunteer for civic and community projects such as traffic and crowd control, child fingerprinting and community neighborhood watch events.

Public Buildings thanked for Stand Down role

The Department of Commerce recognized Public Buildings and Grounds staff for their role in the November 12 Tri-County Veteran Stand Down and Job Fair. "We coordinated with the Veteran Services office and the Department of Commerce to pick up about 6,000 pounds of soups and juices and other products from Campbell Soup and deliver them to the National Guard Armory. We helped with set up and then transported the remainder of Campbell Soup products to NCWorks Career Center," said Public Buildings and Grounds Supervisor Mike McGirt. Veterans were fed during the event and provided with food for future needs. More than 180 veterans and 120 non-veterans were assisted during the job fair.

Cox receives Outstanding Health Educator award

Kathie Cox received the Outstanding Health Educator Award in recognition of outstanding, long-lasting career contributions and demonstrated commitment to the practice of health education in North Carolina. The award was presented at the NC Society of Public Health Education (NC SOPHE) annual conference through a nomination from the Health Director and peers. Cox serves on NC SOPHE's advocacy and planning committees. She has also earned and maintained a National Certification as a Health Education Specialist since 1999. Cox is working to complete a National Certification as a Chronic Care Professional (CCP) later this month.

Parks and Recreation: Spring Soccer 2016

Registration: January 4-January 29 (Monday-Friday 9am-5pm)

Cost: \$15 per player

Games will be held on Saturdays.

****Number of players will determine number of teams****

the January birthday list

1 Clarice Holmes (Elections); 2 Johnny Walker (Sheriff); 3 Debra Webb and Joan Walters (DSS) and Lakisha Williams (Parks and Recreation); 5 Ronald Ivey (Sheriff) and William Mullis (Public Works); 6 Annette Gooselin (Sheriff), Deborah Tardif (DSS) and André McMillan (Jail); 7 Bruce Clark (EMS), Wiley Luther (Sheriff) and Larry Locklear (Public Buildings); 8 Deanna Carlyle (E911 Center); 9 Brian Knight (Jail); 12 Michelle Greene (DSS); 15 Brandon Scott (EMS); 16 Betty Crowley (Jail) and Rosemary McKeithan (DSS); 18 Melinda Dunn (Tax); 20 Ann Locklear (Library) and Sandy Connor (DSS); 22 Michael Hill (EMS); 26 James Monroe (Sheriff); 27 Kimbrick Morris (EMS) and Darleaner Deese (Transportation); 29 James Ellerbe (Public Works) and Chocajuana Oxendine (DSS); 30 Willette Jones (DSS); 31 Nicole Yarborough (DSS).

Our condolences to ...

Elaine Bailey, Health, on the December 9 passing of her husband, Bernice "Ed" Bailey; **Kimberly Brayboy**, Tax, on the December 10 passing of her mother, Carol "Jeanette" Dial Shelton and **Kisha Locklear**, Health, on the passing of her grandmother, Addell Locklear.

Pilkington hosts LEPC in tour of its operations

The Local Emergency Planning Committee (LEPC) and State emergency response officials toured the Pilkington plant earlier this month.

EMS Director Roylin Hammond stressed the importance of the LEPC touring Pilkington. "LEPC looks at safety planning and disaster planning and because Pilkington has a lot of potential hazards that could occur, it's nice for us to be familiar with them."

"From a first responders standpoint it's much better to be familiar with the environment you're going into then to be going into something cold," Hammond added.

The 1.3 million square-foot facility employs 300-plus people and sits on 440 acres, 300 of which is utilized.

It features two lines. Line one was built in 1973 and rebuilt in 2007. Line two was built in 1980 and rebuilt in 2010. Each furnace can produce up to 750 tons of glass a day with 250 to 320 trucks transporting shipments from the facility daily.

A commercial glass supplier, Pilkington is the largest exporter of glass in the world because of its proximity to Charleston, Savannah and Jacksonville. Pilkington currently houses 83,000 tons of glass in its warehouse.

After taking the tour, Hammond said he feels confident that Pilkington officials have a good idea what their responsibilities are. "Oh, yes. They're at the top of their game. They're good."

Hammond explained why emergency responders from the State also toured Pilkington. "If something significant happened here that we don't have the resources in Scotland County to deal with we would rely on the State to be able to support us, so we appreciate their presence here today."

2016 Holiday Schedule

New Year's Day, Friday, January 1

Martin Luther King Day, Monday, January 18

Good Friday, March 25

Memorial Day, Monday May 30

Independence Day, Monday, July 4

Labor Day, Monday, September 5

Veteran's Day, Friday, November 11

Thanksgiving, Thursday and Friday, November 24 and 25

Christmas, Friday, Monday and Tuesday,
December 23, 26 and 27

DOT evaluates all-way stop at 15-501 and NC 144 intersection

After receiving an update on the four-way stop at five points US 15-501 and NC 144, the Board of Commissioners agreed with an NCDOT recommendation to leave the all-way stop in place for one year so its success in preventing major accidents could be evaluated.

Since the four-way stop was installed in August there have been three crashes at slow speeds with one minor injury.

"The severity has been greatly reduced with that treatment over the past three and a half months," said District Maintenance Engineer Chuck Dumas. He recommended that the all-way stop be left in place through the fall of 2016.

Dumas said DOT would like to evaluate the intersection during beach season. "We caught the tail end of beach season from August to Labor Day. We want to see how it performs over that period."

Dumas described the all-way stop as the intermediate solution to look at the traffic pattern. "Based on traffic growth it has a life expectancy of about 20 years." The all-way stop cost about \$20,000.

Construction of a roundabout in the northeast quadrant of the intersection would cost about \$1.1 million. It would be slightly larger than the roundabout on St. John's Road near the hospital but with a smaller radius making it easier to enter.

Dumas added that if in a year the all-way stop is effective the DOT might not construct a roundabout.

Over the years DOT employed several options at the intersection

including flashers, rumble strips and moving one of the legs out of what was once a five-point intersection. "We still continued to have crashes," Dumas said.

Commissioner Guy McCook asked DOT to move the rumble strips farther out. "One of the concerns is if you're doing 65 through there, by the time you get to the rumble strips, you should have already been slowing down. Moving the rumble strips back would get people's attention in time enough to slow down before you get to that intersection."

McCook said, "We're all concerned about the safety of the public at the intersection. We don't want to overspend or over-improve, but we don't want somebody to get killed there. That's our biggest concern. You guys are the experts. If you can assure us that this is the best way to go, we would have to rely on you. It's still difficult. None of us can ensure it would be 100 percent safe no matter what you put up there."

Commissioner Whit Gibson said although there has not been a major incident there, he would prefer a roundabout in the future.

In a period from May 1, 2010 to April 30, 2015, according to a DOT accident analysis, there were 63 crashes at the intersection that included one fatality and nine more severe accidents.

Kids make a family breakfast



C-shift at EMS enjoyed breakfast with their children and immediate families.

Called the Snowman for Christmas, it was the first annual event where the children made breakfast that included pancakes in the shape of snowmen.

"It was an opportunity to get all the kids together and allow them to fix breakfast," said EMS Assistant Director Robert Sampson. "It allowed them to sit down as a family to just have a good time."

Safety plan moves forward

continued from page 1

surprise or whether to give staff a heads up," Parks explained.

The team will document what they have seen on the inspection form and, if possible, get snapshots. Parks said the Department Head or safety person would be expected to do the walk through with the team.

"If it were to be something imminent, the Department Head would be advised to take action and correct it," said Parks.

All the inspection forms will be returned to Parks, who will compile an official findings report that will be returned to the Department Head.

"This process is a way to provide a different viewpoint of a facility. It's not designed to be out to get you, so to speak," Parks said. "We get so comfortable in our work places, we don't see things anymore. So it's just a way of bringing a different perspective and awareness. It also helps with the growth and development of the Safety Team members as they get exposed to different work environments they otherwise might not have known about."

Naughty or Nice?



Adults can still be kids at heart, especially at Christmas time. Just ask Pat Brown from the Register of Deeds office. Brown stopped by the library December 16 to meet with Santa and share her Christmas wish list.

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Online transactions settled in designated exchange zone

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The zone will clearly be marked with signs indicating Sheriff's Office Exchange Zone. It is well lit at night and also under 24-hour video surveillance.

Although it is constantly on video it may not always be monitored by personnel. If you should need emergency assistance while in the exchange zone then you should call 911.

The exchange zone is not a drop off where parents can leave children for a later pick up time. All exchanges must be person to person.

Deputies and employees are not available to participate as official witnesses, give legal advice or settle disputes unless it becomes an emergency situation.

The Scotland County Sheriff's Office Exchange Zone is registered as a National Safe Deal Zone at www.safedeal.zone.

Right turn only coming to Laurel Hill intersection

An NCDOT proposal to eliminate left turns at two intersections in Laurel Hill resulted in a compromise after community members and a County Commissioner asked the agency to reconsider its plan.

The DOT proposed to eliminate left turns at the intersections of Morgan Street and St. John's Church Road and Ida Mill and Springs Mill roads. It was since determined that the left turn at Morgan Street and St. John's Church Road would remain unchanged after Commissioner Bob Davis and a handful of Laurel Hill community leaders expressed concerns about the proposal at a November 12 meeting at Z.V. Pate.

Davis said he was pleased with the compromise. "Farm equipment travels along St. John's Church Road and Springs Mill Road. In addition school buses, logging trucks and equipment travel these roads, too."

The DOT will continue with its plan to eliminate the left turn and the stop light at Ida Mill and Springs Mill roads.

Davis remains concerned about that plan. "If you make a right turn off Springs Mill Road, people can see you, but, if you make a right turn off Ida Mill Road, people coming up that hill can't see you."

"With this proposal you are splitting Laurel Hill into north and south," Davis wrote in an email to DOT officials. "We have Subway, Hardee's, Dollar General, Family Dollar, a hardware and furniture store, a drive-in restaurant plus several convenience stores. We do not need to split our community in half."

Davis said a routine errand to the Post Office would involve someone having to navigate eight lanes of traffic just to get from one side to the other side of Andrew Jackson Highway.

"Folks who live in Jamestown and Quail Hollow subdivisions, if they go to the Post Office, will have to make a right turn and go all the way down to Armstrong Road, turn and go all the way back to Laurel Hill. They actually have to cut across eight lanes of traffic to get to the Post Office."

Davis said he is grateful to Senator Tom McInnis for his assistance in helping to achieve the compromise.

Post Scripts

The following individuals joined Scotland County departments between October 16 and November 15: **Bettie Jackson** (Jail); **Annie Blue**, **Donald Taylor** and **Miyaka Mackie**, DSS; and **Brandon Scott** and **Summer Boysworth**, part-time with EMS. **⌘ Rod Riley** is Director of the Tennis Center. **⌘ Carol McCall** was elected Chair of the Board of Commissioners for 2016. McCall is the second woman elected Chair in the Board's history. The first woman to serve as Chair was Nancy Shelley. **Whit Gibson** was elected Vice Chair. **⌘ Roger Dial** and **Ricky Wright**, Public Buildings, received their EPA Refrigerant certification for HVAC maintenance. Certification allows Wright and Dial to conduct preventive maintenance on HVAC units to keep them actively up and running.

2016 Board of Commissioners meeting schedule

The Board of Commissioners will meet at the A.B. Gibson Center except in July, when the Board will meet in the Emergency Operations Center meeting room.

January 4 (beginning at 6:30 p.m.)

February 1

March 7

April 4

May 2

June 6 (beginning at 6:30 p.m.)

July 11 (EOC meeting room)

August 1

September 6 (Tuesday)

October 3

November 7

December 5

All dates and times are 7 p.m. Monday unless otherwise noted

Recycle center signs say it all



Signs posted at the five convenience centers give residents information on what types of recyclables are accepted at the facilities.

A smaller sign describes limitations on household trash accepted weekly at the recycle centers. Since availability fees became effective July 1, there is no exchange of cash at any of the convenience sites for dropping off household trash.