

FEBRUARY 2016

Scotland County, NC



A newsletter for the Scotland County community

Newton announces retirement from Parks and Recreation

After 16 years of service Shannon Newton will retire as Parks and Recreation Director effective March 11. Newton will transition to Cooperative Extension April 1 as Horticulture Agent for Scotland and Hoke counties.

Athletics Supervisor Al Blades will serve as Interim Parks and Recreation Director until a new Parks and Recreation Director is hired.

Newton credits the tremendous support of the community for some of the largest initiatives accomplished while she served as Parks and Recreation Director.

One such initiative included construction of the James L. Morgan Recreation Complex, which features the Splash Pad, soccer fields, baseball fields and lighting.

"It was a community effort. I was just one person in the process," Newton said. "Also through community effort, the Wagram Recreation Center was built."

During Newton's tenure, the County started charging fees for youth athletics and facility rentals.

"That helped the athletics program," Newton explained. "Before that, children would call up, register and never come to games. That was expensive for the County and hard on the teams and coaches."

She added, "The most fun we've had has been Halloween in the Park. The County prepares the materials and supplies, sets everything up and St. Andrews University athletics students come in and run the activities. It's been a huge success the past three years, and I'm sure that will continue."

Prior to joining Parks and Recreation, Newton served for 15 years as Beautification Director for the City of Laurinburg.



Shannon Newton

Strengths, successes shared with U.S. elected officials

Chair Carol McCall, Commissioners John Alford and Guy McCook and County Manager Kevin Patterson traveled to Washington, D.C. last week to attend the annual NACo (National Association of Counties) Legislative Conference.

While there, the group had opportunity to visit with Senator Thom Tillis and Representatives Richard Hudson and staff in Senator Richard Burr's office.

They also met with Representative Robert Pittenger whose 9th District currently includes Scotland County.

Tillis had some advice for the local contingent regarding economic development — go to the top as far as having people involved.

"Having someone from the office of a State or federal elected official when you're talking

to those prospects shows that you've got heavyweights on your side trying to do some economic development," McCall explained.

Another topic of conversation, McCall said, was about the gap in skills a lot of the population has. "They've been out of work for an extended period of time and the jobs that have come back in are high level manufacturing jobs."

McCall said the Scotland County group focused on economic development, jobs and infrastructure in its discussions with elected officials.

"We told them what our strengths are, that we have *continued on the back page*

Volunteer firefighters prove instrumental in clearing roads after ice storm downs trees and limbs, preventing access

While most residents stayed indoors in the immediate aftermath of the January 22 ice storm, fire department volunteers were on the roads doing what they do best — protecting the health, safety and welfare of citizens.

There are at least 140 volunteer firemen among the seven different fire departments who volunteer their time to fight fires. "In times of disaster, people have come to expect them to respond, and they do that willingly," said EMS Director Roylin Hammond.

In the case of the January 22 ice storm, the fire departments, in their respective districts, and the State Forestry Service, were all out clearing the roads.

"In any weather event where we've got limbs, trees and debris blocking roads, there's a mentality to cut and shove. You cut the limbs, and you shove them out of the road. You're not trying to clean up, you're creating egress and access to neighborhoods so if there is an emergency an emergency vehicle can get through."

The volunteers chainsawed limbs and trees and pushed and pulled limbs out of the road to make clear access. Although there were 10,000 people in Scotland County without power for a period of time, Hammond said this was not a severe ice storm compared to devastating weather events of the past where there was much more debris everywhere. "In those cases, we didn't have the fire departments that we have now."

All seven fire departments responded to the recent ice storm. "Probably by midnight that night there wasn't anywhere people couldn't get, even the rural roads, so emergency vehicles could get through," Hammond said.

"If the power company can't get there, they can't fix anything. The fire department volunteers did a phenomenal job, and they always do, and they do it safely."

Hammond said of the fire department volunteers, "It's an unpaid resource that we would be in a bind without."

The March birthday list

1 Bud McAllister (Inspections) and Courtney Jarrell (Sheriff); 2 Richard Brown (Health); 4 Catherine Stubbs (Tax), Gwendolyn Bennett (EMS) and Bettie Jackson (Jail); 5 Samantha Hetrick (EMS); 6 Nancy Pittman (Transportation) and Latoya Williams (E911 Center); 7 Felisa McKeithan (Transportation); 10 Jami Smith (EMS); 11 Sherilynn Mims (Administration); 12 Reggie Drakeford and Ricky Wright (Public Buildings) and June Hunt and Bruce Hasty (EMS); 14 Mary White (EMS); 16 Annie Malloy (Health); 20 Misty Dial (EMS); 21 Kathaleen Stewart and Purlie Deese (DSS); 23 Stephanie Hudson (Jail) and Rhonda Iacona (Elections); 24 Mary Helen Norton (Tax), Rhonda Cox and Elizabeth Shutt (DSS) and Oscar Henderson (EMS); 25 Jimmy Sanderson (Sheriff) and Christopher Duffel (EMS); 26 Chris Hopper (Parks and Recreation); 27 Christa Marciano (DSS); 28 Rodney Tucker (Sheriff); 30 Shaneall Adams (DSS).

Post Scripts

The following individuals joined Scotland County departments from December 16 to January 15: **Curtis Garth** and **Rodney Williams**, Jail; and **Maurice Brown**, Wagram Recreation Complex. **Dean Russell** and **Michael Hunt**, Public Buildings and Grounds, successfully completed the pesticide certification class. Certification for applying pesticides is required by law and will allow Russell and Hunt to apply chemicals for weed and fire ant control.

Our condolences to ...

the family of DSS retiree **Deborah "Debbie" Ann Tardif**, who passed away February 6; **Marc Brown**, Health, on the February 16 passing of his mother, Ruby Brown; **Bonnie Norton**, Public Buildings and Grounds retiree, on the February 12 passing of her husband, Everette "Pate" Norton; **Louise Williams**, Library, on the February 12 passing of her brother, Lawrence Rush.

Litter Sweep is coming

The Chamber of Commerce Green Committee is looking for the next King of the Mountain. That's the team that will pick up the most trash.

Competing for King of the Mountain is part of the 2016 Spring Litter Sweep April 4 to 9. Vests, gloves and trash bags are available at the Chamber office, 8 a.m. to 5 p.m., Monday through Friday, 606 Atkinson Street.

Cash prize for King of the Mountain is \$200. Second place prize is \$100. There will be various small prizes for the first 100 people who sign-up to participate.

During the weeklong litter sweep, volunteers can drop off bags of trash at any of the five recycling centers Monday, Wednesday or Saturday. Just notify the site volunteer of the number of bags collected. All bags must be delivered to the recycling centers by 3 p.m. Saturday, April 9.

"This is a campaign to clean up our County and make it beautiful for people traveling through, visiting or moving here," said Solid Waste Enforcement Officer J.R. Horne.

Yard waste hauled to the landfill more than triples in February

In less than a month more than 680 tons of yard waste was delivered to the landfill, compared to 195 tons the same time last year. Of course last year there was no ice storm that downed trees and limbs across the County.

"Normally we get three or four trucks a day, two to three tons for each truckload," said Public Works Supervisor Bryant Higgins. "There's a lot of bulk to yard waste and it takes up a large area when you compact it. The yard waste coming in has quadrupled during the course of the day."

And still Higgins isn't sure if the tonnage coming in will decrease in the next several weeks. "There are still neighborhoods where there's yard waste and debris to be collected."

Higgins said the recycling centers also have seen an uptick in yard waste being brought in. "I put out an extra bin at 401 South and Livingston Quarters, which is a 30-yard bin, when typically we need a 20-yard bin."

"For two weeks my truck spent the Monday after the storm dumping yard waste and before it was done the bins were full again. It would turn right around and start dumping yard waste again before the four or five sites in the County were even covered."

Higgins said the yard waste coming in initially won't affect operational costs at the landfill. "There's more money the County has to put in, but it's in the handling side of it."

Higgins explained, "When yard waste breaks down we have to screen it and get the finer material out. The bigger material is re-piled again. Eventually we have to get a tub grinder to come in and grind the larger material into wood chips so it will break down into a dirt-like material,"

"What comes in is not the finished part. It has to lay there a while. It's piled and compacted and we let it break down naturally," Higgins added,

"We've only got so much area at the landfill, so we have to process it, screen it and move the dirt. We can use the finer material as cover. But I've got to move some of the finer material to make room to wind row the yard waste."

Higgins said the State does not permit the landfill to sell the material, so it must stay on the property.

Commissioners focus on strengths

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great water resources in Scotland County, that we have a wonderful certified site that could accommodate a large industry and that we're working on other sites as well." McCall said.

"We partner well with the City. An example is our history and the partnership in getting FCC and Cascades here," she said.

"We have to tell our story about what we've done as well as let them know that when we are doing something, we might need their help."

McCall also attended a workshop where the emphasis was on rural poverty. "We do have rural poverty, but we're not alone," said McCall. "We tend to think in silos that we're the only ones tackling this rural poverty and there's rural poverty all over the country. We're not by ourselves."



Commissioners Guy McCook, left, and Chair Carol McCall visit with Representative Richard Hudson.