

Scotland County Monthly



AUGUST 2013

A newsletter for the Scotland County community

Cemetery locales referenced

If Leon Gyles has his way, no cemetery in Scotland County will go undocumented. What started as a Boy Scout project for the Library Director and his son Chase turned into a longterm commitment for Gyles, even after Chase earned his Citizenship and Community Merit Badge for the project.

Gyles persists because the reference system found in two directories — one for white cemeteries, the other for black cemeteries — is outdated.

“People came in one day from Florida, and they were looking for a Gibson cemetery,” said Gyles. “One book listed five Gibson cemeteries in Scotland County, all with State highway numbers.”

Gyles had to call the DOT for the conversion of the State highway numbers. “The cemeteries are still referenced as State roads instead of GPS coordinates, longitude and latitude or roads with names.”

Latitude and longitude for some cemeteries are necessary because they can't be found with GPS coordinates, according to Gyles.

Eight months after the cemetery project began, Gyles discussed what he means by documenting cemeteries. “We list the cemetery, take pictures of the cemetery, what it looks like from the road, some of the gravesites there, and give the street address, if possible, GPS coordinates and GIS map identification along with any references we have to publications or references currently in the library.”

Gyles is combining what is already known about black and white cemeteries. “Whenever I find a new cemetery, I add it.”

172 cemeteries were already referenced and since then Gyles has located 35 to 40 additional cemeteries — private, public, black, white and Indian — within the County.

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FCC employees made to feel at home with traditional event



WLNC's Sandy Callan, left, interviews FCC North Carolina President Mitoshi Kishita with the assistance of an interpreter.

County and City officials hosted a traditional pig pickin' for FCC employees and their families. The August 8 event at the Deercroft Club was a way to say thank you to FCC and its commitment to Scotland County.

In May the company broke ground at a site adjacent to the Small Business Innovation Center (SBIC) for the construction of a 160,000-square-foot paper production plant. FCC also is in the process of expanding by 90,000-square-feet at its current 143,000-square-foot Laurel Hill facility.

The company is making a \$80 million investment in the community and intends to create more than 90 jobs.

The investment and expansion by the company is perhaps the largest in the history of Scotland County, according to Economic Development Director Greg Icard.

Chairman Guy McCook said the pig pickin', which attracted about 70 FCC employees, their families and local officials, was a way for the County to welcome new FCC employees to the community and reaffirm a strong partnership the County has cultivated with FCC.

Product line added

Meritor will add/retain 57 jobs and invest \$3.5 million for the addition of a new line of products to the Scotland County facility.

The project will keep the local Meritor facility viable for years to come.

NC Commerce Secretary visits County



Economic Development Director Greg Icard speaks with NC Secretary of Commerce Sharon Decker during her daylong visit to the County August 21.

Following a tour of the area, which included visits to RCC and St. Andrews University, and a business meeting with the Scotland County Economic Development Corporation, Decker discussed her goals and initiatives with the community during a meet and greet event.

PostScripts

James Ellerbe assumes the responsibilities of foreman at the landfill. 🍷 Welcome to new employees **Leslie Hallman**, EMS. Part-time with EMS are **Casey Schmidt**, **Cherl Faile**, **Daisy Shaw**, **Jessica Watson**, **Mica Pate** and **Tamara Getty**. **Johnny Walker** is temporary with the Sheriff. 🍷 Best wishes to **Kelvin Howell** on his retirement from the Sheriff's Department after 30 years of service. 🍷 **Beth Hobbs** was appointed Deputy Finance Officer by the Board of Commissioners. Hobbs replaced Charles Nichols, who now serves as Laurinburg City Manager. 🍷 **Mike McGirt**, Public Buildings, received a certificate of achievement for his participation in a NC Chapter of the American Public Works Association Seminar.

Our condolences to ...

Carol McCall, Commissioner, on the August 6 passing of her sister-in-law and former Health Department employee Tyra Sue McCall McMillan; the family of **Jerry Johnson**, Elections, who passed away August 26.

Mark your calendars

Health Fairs, September 11 and 12, Health Education Room; September 13, 507 West Covington Street; 7 a.m. to 11 a.m. Blood glucose, cholesterol and triglycerides and blood pressure screenings. Do not eat at least two hours prior to appointment.

Farmers Market part of Breastfeeding Awareness Month event

As part of the World Breastfeeding Month 2013 celebration, the Department of Public Health and WIC Program, Cooperative Extension and Scotland Memorial Hospital hosted a Farmers Market August 5.

The community was invited to explore fresh, local fruits and vegetables, in addition to celebrating and promoting the many benefits of breastfeeding. County staff participated by bringing at least two non-perishable food items for donation to Church Community Services or by bringing clothing items for donation to the Domestic Violence and Rape Crisis Center.

130 adults, many with their children, participated in the event, which featured a wide assortment of fruits and vegetables from which to choose. Pineapples, peaches and watermelons were highly favored among participants. There was also a taste test, which allowed individuals to try apple wraps made with WIC-approved items, assorted vegetables/vegetable dip and assorted fruits/fruit dip.

Evaluation forms allowed participants to provide feedback on what they tasted that day, particularly the wraps. Many participants were surprised about how much they enjoyed the wraps, especially

Games and home-cooking boost morale

For about 15 minutes there was chaos as Transportation workers frantically searched for about 50 items as part of a scavenger hunt. Some of the items were easy to locate, like pencils, pens, erasers, ID cards. Other items were a little more obscure like glue, a videotape, a safety pin.

The scavenger hunt is part of a monthly event organized by Transportation Coordinator Gracie Rettig. It boosts morale, she says.

Transportation members who wish to participate each put \$5 into a collection pot. The money is used to purchase food for a lunch, which Rettig makes, and prizes for whatever the monthly challenge might be. The winning team of this scavenger hunt will be treated to a pizza party lunch.

While the search goes on, Rettig prepares pork loin with gravy and potatoes, cole slaw and sliced fresh tomatoes and cucumbers from her garden.

After the items have been counted and the winning team announced, Transportation staff sit down for lunch. They still are on the clock, so they have an hour to participate in the competition and eat lunch.

Rettig said that in the past, employees have had to search for the four-leaf clovers made of paper or uncover Easter eggs that have small gifts inside. There was a silver egg with \$2 in it, and a golden egg with \$5 in it.

Rettig said the monthly event gives Transportation staff something to look forward to, which includes an afternoon of fun followed by a tasty, homemade meal.



Transportation drivers Lendo Mason and Felisa McKeithan go on a scavenger hunt.

since they were vegetarian food items.

In addition to the features of the Farmers Market, participants left with an enlightened view of the importance of breastfeeding.

Brochures were distributed that highlight the importance of providing support to breastfeeding families.

"Despite most mothers wanting to breastfeed, many are met with multiple and complex barriers that keep them from achieving their personal breastfeeding goals," explained WIC Program Director/Breastfeeding Programs Manager Cardra Burns. "Support and encouragement from all angles can make success possible for mothers who wish to breastfeed. Negative attitudes and practices of the mother's closest support network can pose a sizeable barrier, making it difficult for mothers and babies to successfully breastfeed."

Burns, who organized the Farmers Market and Breastfeeding Awareness Month event, added, "Learning how to breastfeed takes time and patience for new mothers and infants. It is important to remember that families, friends, healthcare providers, employers, childcare providers, communities and even the media play a crucial role in a mother's overall success with breastfeeding."



Participants were given WIC recyclable bags and invited to select two vegetables and two fruits from the Farmers Market table.

Evacuation exercise better prepares participating agencies for the real thing

Scotland County Emergency Management, with the assistance of 12 other local agencies, conducted an evacuation exercise moving 65 elderly patients from Century Care on Hasty Road to the new Scottish Pines facility on Johns Road.



SCATS helped transport 65 elderly patients to the new Scottish Pines facility. Photo by Roylin Hammond, EMS

The Laurinburg, Stewartsville and McColl fire departments, Scotland County Rescue Squad, EMS, Sheriff, DSS, Public Health, Area Transit System (SCATS), the Red Cross and the health care staff at both Century Care and Scottish Pines worked together August 3 to accomplish the task. 49 responders from Scotland County agencies took part in the exercise.

The evacuation was accomplished in about two hours and 45 minutes. All 65 patients were safely transported and delivered to their new residence on Johns Road.

“Had this been a real emergency event, all these agencies would play a vital role in accomplishing such a task,” said EMS Director Roylin Hammond. “We are fortunate this was only an exercise, but it provided all parties involved some valuable training in managing an evacuation of an aging population.”

Hammond added, “We would hope to never have a real life event such as this occur in Scotland County, but if it does, the agencies that participated are a little better prepared to respond to and manage the event.”

EOC/911 Call Center project awarded

The Commissioners awarded a contract for construction of the EOC (Emergency Operations Center) and 911 Call Center to Montieth.

Bids submitted by the eight qualified bidders all came in under budget with Montieth submitting the lowest bid at \$1,923,000.

EMS Director Roylin Hammond said because the bids were under budget it will allow the County to maximize use of the grant dollars in the execution of the project.

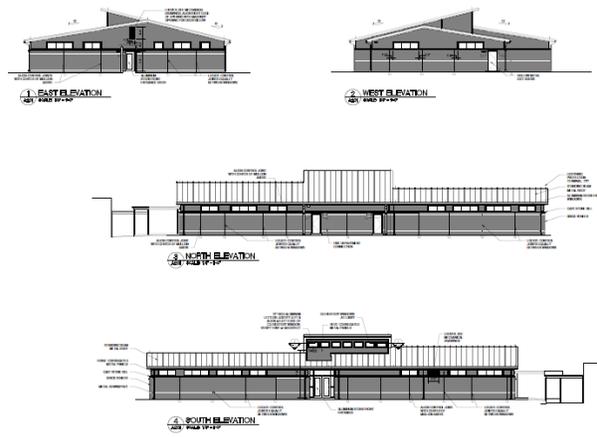
A covered breezeway will connect the original EMS building to the new facility, which will house all 911 centers under one roof instead of the current dispatching units, which are in five different locations.

“We’re going to put all those people in one location and all their computers in one location in a facility that is actually designed for all the computers and technology,” Hammond said. “We’ll also have a room for the EOC if we have to activate it.”

Hammond said there will be bunk rooms, a general conference space, a clean room for City and County 911 computers and a designated space for IT to use.

Construction is expected to begin in September. Hammond estimated construction will take about a year.

Elevation views of the EOC/911 Call Center were prepared by Becker Morgan Group.



Jenkins’ duties begin as Health Director

David Jenkins, pictured right with Commissioner and Health Board Chairman Bob Davis, assumed duties as Director of the Department of Public Health August 1.

Jenkins replaces Wayne Raynor, who served as Interim Health Director since October 2011.

Jenkins brings 13 years of public health experience to Scotland County. He previously worked with the New Hanover County Health Department in the area of environmental health.

the Birthday list for September

1 Felisa Locky (DSS); **5** James Sweet (EMS); **6** Anita Nelson (DSS) and Denise Cox (EMS); **8** Debra Kersey (Health); **9** Mark Haux (Public Buildings); **10** Jeannie Freeman (DSS) and Victor Womack (Public Buildings); **11** Kimberly Villanueva (DSS), Deborah Rogers (Health) and James Lavinier (Sheriff); **12** Tina Whitfield (Jail); **13** Roger Dial (Public Buildings); **14** Carlotta Rivers (Health); **15** Denise Dunn (Library); **16** Nancy Hughes (Tax); **18** Susan Butler (Administration); **19** Whit Gibson (Commissioner); **20** Twanna McCrimmon (DSS), Cardra Burns and Heather Wyke (Health) and Leon Gyles (Library); **23** Phillip Leviner (EMS); **25** Alisa Freeman (Health), Falana Jackson (DSS) and Andrew Walker (EMS); **26** Joshua Byrd (EMS); **29** Lynda McMillan (Health).

17 units were collected during the August 8 Blood Drive sponsored by the County and the Red Cross.

Pursuit of Merit Badge leads to long-term cemetery project

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Leon Gyles is compiling a comprehensive directory of cemeteries in Scotland County.

Gyles even located three Indian cemeteries that were never documented. There are two cemeteries not in Scotland County that are referenced in the research. “You can’t get to them unless you helicopter in or walk through the woods,” Gyles said. “You can only get to them from Scotland County.”

Gyles added, “Locating some of the more obscure cemeteries has occurred through word of mouth.”

If you can’t read a headstone, cover it with shaving cream, squeegee it off and gently wipe it with a paper towel. The white lettering on a stone background makes it readable.

Obscure for Gyles sometimes means a half-mile trek through the woods to get to the cemetery. There was one in particular. “It was still being used,” Gyles said. “There were two people buried there in 2011.” Headstones are in a variety of shapes, designs and sizes made of granite, marble, limestone, cement.

When the project is complete, the cemetery references will be printed and bound. They also will be converted to Excel which, in turn, will hopefully be converted into an overlay for the GIS map.

Gyles said it is important to conduct this research now and not wait. “Very few people know where they (Scotland County cemeteries) are so we might as well document it while we’ve still got some memories.”

He explained, “There is historical significance to genealogists and people who are trying to find their roots, find where their families are.” Gyles recalled one time he took a photo of a child’s headstone for a woman who was doing research on the Hasty family. “The woman who wanted a picture of that headstone has the necklace that the little girl had. The little girl died when she was a year and a half as a result of her skirt catching on fire. She died of complications from the burns.”

For Gyles, locating and accurately documenting Scotland County cemeteries is important. “We’re just trying to help people. That’s all.”

News of Note

Fall tennis lessons offered

Tennis lessons for all school age children will be Mondays and Wednesdays beginning Monday, September 9. Children in grades K-2 will meet 4:30 p.m. to 5:15 p.m. Fee is \$50 a month for two days and \$40 for one day a week. Children in grades 3 and up will meet 5 p.m. to 6:30 p.m. Fee is \$60 a month for two days a week and \$50 for one day a week. Sign up by calling 277-2592 or by attending the first day of lessons. Tennis lessons will be conducted by Jeanne Roller and Leigh Carter.

LINKS and BB&T partner to beautify DSS

Laurinburg BB&T awarded the DSS LINKS program the 2013 Light House Project grant. The grant will purchase art supplies to complete a mural in the DSS lobby. DSS LINKS participants, those children in foster care, ages 13 to 21, are eligible to submit during the month of December a design and essay representing what foster care means to them. DSS staff from various units will review the submissions and select a sketch that will be painted in the DSS lobby. DSS hopes to brighten the look of the lobby and create a design that can be updated by future LINKS participants for years to come.

Reverse Mortgage workshop is September 16

A Reverse Mortgage workshop for the general public as well as those 55 and older will be held 1 p.m. to 3 p.m. Monday, September 16, at Scotland Place. Pros and cons will be discussed. Admission is free. Call 277-2585 to reserve your space, which is limited to 100.

Get ready for Fall Litter Sweep September 9 to 14

Collect vests, gloves and trash bags from the Chamber of Commerce. Cash prizes are \$200 for first place and \$100 for second place.

Library summer program concludes with storyteller



Storyteller Obakunle Akinlana, above left, thrilled youngsters with imaginative tales and inspired them to dance and play musical instruments.

The July 31 presentation concluded the 2013 summer reading program at Scotland County Memorial Library.

The six headliner events attracted 3,500 people to the library as it played host to the Carolina Raptors, North Carolina Zoo, Snakes Alive and Bright Star Theatre.

Storyteller Akinlana used drums, shekeres and other musical instruments to present traditional African folktales. Akinlana, through his performances, encourages audience participation.