

Scotland County

Monthly



DECEMBER 2012

A newsletter for Scotland County employees and the community

Employees receive bonus

The Commissioners by a unanimous vote agreed to put something extra in the stockings of County employees.

Gathering for a special meeting December 20, the Commissioners approved an appropriation of \$37,000 of fund balance for the purpose of issuing a one-time bonus to all current County employees who are in regularly scheduled, budgeted positions as of June 30, 2012.

The bonus provided a net \$100 for qualified full-time employees and a net \$50 for qualified employees who work at least 20 hours per week. Exempted from the bonus are Commissioners, employees who began work after July 1, 2012 and substitute workers.

Once approved, bonus checks were distributed to employees December 20 and 21.

"County employees are our greatest asset," said Chairman Guy McCook. "The Commissioners recognize their dedication to service and the sacrifices they made."

"If it were not for the employees the County would not have been able to make the improvement in our financial position," he added. [see Bonus, page 2](#)

Soil and Water returns to Covington Street location

The Soil and Water Conservation District office relocated back to 507 West Covington Street. The office had moved to 231 East Cronly Street in May when it was a two-person staff, freeing Covington Street space for the Veterans Service Office.

Soil and Water staff was reduced from two to one in the summer. Soil and Water Supervisor Amy Miller received permission from County Manager Kevin Patterson to return to one office at 507 West Covington Street where she could rely on administrative support.

Miller said co-worker Martha Norfleet transitioned from Soil and Water to Land Records with the Tax Department. "At Covington Street, I can still get administrative help from Martha when she is available," Miller explained.

The telephone number for Soil and Water remains the same at 910-277-2433.

Commissioners take oath of office



Superior Court Judge Richard T. Brown, center, administered the Oath of Office to Commissioners, left to right, Whit Gibson, Bob Davis, Clarence McPhatter and John Alford. Photo by Kevin Patterson, Administration

One new Commissioner and three returning Commissioners were administered the oath of office December 3 during a special swearing in ceremony.

New Commissioner Whit Gibson fills the at-large seat vacated by former Commissioner Joyce McDow, who chose not to run for re-election. Gibson is not new to elected office having served as Clerk of Court.

Commissioners Clarence McPhatter and John Alford were re-elected to third consecutive terms, while Commissioner Bob Davis was re-elected to a second consecutive term.

As part of the Board of Commissioners reorganization, Davis passed the Chairman gavel to Commissioner Guy McCook, who was appointed Chairman by acclamation. Davis served as Board Chairman for two consecutive years.

Commissioner Carol McCall was appointed Vice Chair replacing former Commissioner McDow, who served as Vice Chair for two consecutive years.

Davis said he was honored to serve the Commissioners and the community as Board Chairman. He thanked everyone for their support during his time as Chairman.

McCook lauded Davis for his leadership not only as Chairman but as a County Commissioner. McCook said he looked forward to continuing the momentum initiated by Davis.

Truck assists with woods and brush fires

Photo and text by Roylin Hammond, EMS

Spring Hill Fire Department has a new brush truck purchased with grant funds from the State Department of Insurance, Office of the State Fire Marshal (OFSM), and also through funding provided by Pioneer Seed Corn.

The truck cost about \$36,000 and features a skid package mounted on the rear of the new Ford 4x4 3/4 ton chassis. Spring Hill Fire Department will use the new truck to assist the North Carolina Forest Service with woods and brush fires within its fire district where larger fire trucks cannot gain easy access to these type fires.



Careers initiative meets with success

A grant-funded program that targets 18 to 30 year olds for employment opportunities has already met with success.

Generation YZ Careers project for Scotland County was funded by the Rural Center and administered through a partnership between the Chamber of Commerce and Richmond Community College.

The Generations Grant focuses on bolstering employment skills through resume creation, mock interviews, how to dress, time management and work ethic development.

As a result, 11 of the 28 current participants are employed, six of whom work part-time with the Department of Social Services.

DSS Director Robby Hall said the participants are the first to work on and learn the new NC FAST computer system.

NC FAST is a program designed to improve the way the Department of Health and Human Services and county departments of social services do business.

Hall said DSS will bring on a seventh participant. The grant helps offset salary for participants through the six-week on-the-job training period.

Along with DSS, business partners in the program include Champs, the City of Laurinburg, Habitat for Humanity ReStore, Hampton Inn, Murphy Brown, Precision Contractors, Scotland Health Care System, Scotland Inn, Service Thread, Simmons and Thames Construction.

the Birthday list for January

1 Clarice Holmes (Elections); **3** Debra Webb and Joan Walters (DSS) and Lakisha Williams (Parks and Recreation); **5** Doris Ann Donovan (Parks and Recreation), Ronald Ivey (Sheriff) and William Mullis (Public Works); **6** Deborah Tardif (DSS); **7** Bruce Clark (EMS), Wiley Luther (Sheriff) and Larry Locklear (Transportation); **8** Deanna Carlyle (EMS); **9** Bryan Knight (Jail); **11** Sandra Lockety (EMS) and Stacy Shannon (Transportation); **12** Tyrone McKoy (Sheriff); **15** Brandon Scott (EMS); **16** Betty Crowley (Jail) and Brandi Locklear (EMS); **18** Gregory Diggs (Parks and Recreation); **20** Paul Lemmond (Sheriff); **21** Jonathan Edwards (Sheriff); **22** Karen Chavis (DSS); **26** James Monroe (Sheriff); **27** Kimbrick Morris (EMS) and Martin Clark (Public Works); **29** James Ellerbe (Public Works); **30** Willette Jones (DSS); **31** Nicole Yarborough (DSS).

PostScripts

Welcome to the following new employees who were hired since October 16: **Heather Fontenot**, Sheriff; **Leslie Hallman**, part-time with EMS; **Victor Womack**, part-time with the Library. **Angela Galloway** joined Cooperative Extension as 4-H Agent. Galloway will provide leadership to the Scotland County 4-H Program in the areas of community/project club organization, school enrichment projects and special interest programs. Other responsibilities include recruiting, training and working with adult volunteers. Galloway received a B.A. in Political Science from SC State University and a Masters of Public Administration/Human Resources from American Public University, Charlestown, WV. Angela has more than six years experience as a 4-H Agent. She was a 4-H counselor during college and is a former 4-H'er herself while growing up.



Angela Galloway

Our condolences to ...

Frances Moody, Health, on the November 29 passing of her mother Gertrude Hamer, and former Sheriff **Buddy Blalock** on the December 8 passing of his wife, Eileen Chriscoe Blalock, and the family of DSS retiree **Sybil Mercer**, who passed away December 10.

Employees receive bonus before holidays

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Describing the one-time bonus as a small gesture, McCook said, "Commissioners are very much aware of personal and financial sacrifices employees have made for several years, not just these last two years."

Commissioners in attendance echoed the sentiment. "I wish it could be more, but this is a token of our appreciation," said Commissioner Bob Davis.

"I would want to do more," said Commissioner John Alford. "We simply don't have more, so I'm glad we can say thank you in this way."

Commissioner Whit Gibson said he would like to see the Commissioners eventually work toward reinstating what the employees lost.

"We'd like to be in a different position, but this does acknowledge our appreciation," said Commissioner John Cooley. "I hope employees look at it in that manner."

Commissioner Carol McCall said the bonus goes beyond the monetary value. "The acknowledgement goes a long way to support employees who continue to work in jobs that become increasingly harder and more demanding."

McCall added, "In some way, it's what's needed every year and not just this year."

McCook said the \$37,000 is one-tenth of one per cent of the fund balance.

Health Board members thanked



Left to right, Cynthia Morton, Dr. Olivia Guzman and Dave Raley received plaques in appreciation for serving their terms on the Board of Health.

Santa visits youth at County facilities

Children who wondered how they would get their holiday wish list to Santa Claus prior to Christmas had two chances to do just that as Santa Claus made visits to two County buildings.

It's the busy season for Mr. and Mrs. Santa Claus but, despite their hectic schedule, they managed to set aside time for children with by visiting Scotland County Memorial Library December 12 and the Wagram Recreation Center December 14.

Santa and Mrs. Claus stopped by the library for a special storytime and the Wagram Recreation Center for breakfast with kids and their families.

"It's a perfect time for pre-school and school-aged children to get in those last minute wishes to Santa before Christmas," said Youth Services Librarian Denise Dunn.