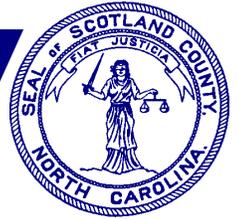


Scotland County

Monthly



FEBRUARY 2013

A newsletter for the Scotland County community

Scotland County selected for cancer prevention study

Scotland County is one of several North Carolina counties whose residents are being invited to participate in the Cancer Prevention Study-3 (CPS-3). The study hopes to create a world with less cancer and more birthdays.

CPS-3 is a grassroots effort where local communities from across the country support cancer research not just through fundraising efforts but also by participating actively in a historic research study.

The American Cancer Society's Epidemiology Research Program is inviting men and women in Scotland County between the ages of 30 and 65 years who have never personally been diagnosed with cancer to participate in the study.

The ultimate goal is to enroll at least 300,000 adults from various racial/ethnic backgrounds from across the country.

The purpose of CPS-3 is to better understand the lifestyle, behavioral, environmental and genetic factors that cause or prevent cancer and to ultimately eliminate cancer as a major health problem for this and future generations.

Local enrollment is made possible in partnership with Robeson Community College and Scotland Place Senior/Civic Center.

Initial enrollment requires two steps. After scheduling an enrollment appointment, you will receive a confirmation e-mail with instructions to go online and complete your first, most comprehensive survey.

The survey will ask you questions regarding your medications, family history of cancer, lifestyle and other behaviors. The survey should be completed prior to your appointment time.

At your appointment, you will be asked to sign an informed consent, complete a brief survey and provide a waist circumference measurement and a blood sample (similar to those taken during a visit to the doctor). The blood sample will be taken by a certified, trained phlebotomist. Appointment should last approximately 20 to 30 minutes.

Program appointment will take place from 2 p.m. to 6:30 p.m. Thursday, March 28, at Scotland Place.

Following enrollment, you will periodically receive mailed surveys at home every few years to update your information.

You also will receive annual study newsletters to update you on research taking place in the Cancer Prevention Studies.

Confidentiality is of the utmost importance, and every effort will be made to protect the privacy of study participants and safeguard personal information that is collected.

All personal information and any individual results of blood analyses that may be performed will be kept strictly confidential by American Cancer Society research staff. There will be no cost to you to participate.

To participate in the CPS-3, please visit www.cancer.org/cps3 or email cps3@cancer.org or call toll-free 1-888-604-5888.

People get a lot for \$1.97 a day

County Manager Kevin Patterson likened \$1.97 a day each County resident pays in property and sales taxes as an investment.

Patterson said the County's \$25.8 million budget supports three major areas — education, public safety and human services.

93 cents per person per day of the \$1.97 supports education, which includes Richmond Community College. "That's less than the price of a school lunch," Patterson told the more than 50 people who attended the Chamber of Commerce annual State of the Community event.

See \$1.97, page 4

SBIC ribbon cutting scheduled



Above are photos of the Small Business Innovation Center lobby. The ribbon cutting is scheduled for March 8. See story, page 2.

Emergency Operations Center grant gets six-month extension

An extension of a \$650,000 federal Homeland Security grant will give County officials more time to finalize plans for the construction of a new Emergency Operations Center.

The EOC will be constructed adjacent to the EMS building on West Boulevard. Approximate cost for the project is \$3.5 million. Most of the funds are already on hand — \$2.1 million from the the NC 911 Board and additional monies from the 911 fund balance — but loss of the Homeland Security grant would have imperiled the project.

The County's ability to access the funds would have expired in March had the extension to November 31 not occurred.

The new EOC is expected to accommodate an estimated 100 people for training and meetings in the event of a county-wide emergency. All 911 operations, which currently are in separate locations in the City and County, will be consolidated at the EOC.

The current EOC is in the main meeting room at 231 East Cronly Street. EMS director Roylin Hammond said the new EOC will be in a more acceptable location.

Hammond said the Cronly Street EOC is too close to railroad tracks where a derailment could put the entire community at risk if it involves toxic or poisonous cargo. Hammond added that the EOC at Cronly Street also is in an area susceptible to flooding.

The EMS Director anticipates a groundbreaking for construction will be held in mid-summer.

Ribbon cutting set for SBIC facility

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The March 8 ribbon cutting ceremony for the Small Business Innovation Center (SBIC) has been three years in the making.

Located at 16800 US 401 Bypass in Laurinburg the ceremony at 2 p.m. is expected to attract local, State and U.S. elected officials as well as business leaders.

The completed structure includes 4,800 square-feet designated for SBIC operations and 8,000 square-feet for entrepreneurial and business start-up endeavors.

The SBIC project is the result of a partnership among the Scotland County Economic Development Corporation (SCEDC), Richmond Community College (RCC), the County and the City of Laurinburg.

The SBIC will be the anchor building for the Business Campus and it will become the primary area for small business resources within the region.

As part of the RCC partnership with the SCEDC, the Small Business Innovation Center will permanently house the Small Business Center, the Career Readiness Certificate Trainer and the Industrial Workforce Training Director.

The partnership will create a one-stop shop for small businesses and entrepreneurs not only in County but in the region.

Our condolences to ...

Judy McMillan, Health, and **Kaye McMillan**, DSS, on the January 27 passing of their mother-in-law Dottie McMillan.

the Birthday list for March

1 Bud McAllister (Inspections); **2** April Dorsett (EMS); **4** Catherine Stubbs (Tax); **6** Nancy Pittman (Transportation); **7** Jeffrey Cooke (Sheriff), Felisa McKeithan (Transportation) and Raymond Moody (Parks and Recreation); **8** Leslie Scott (DSS); **9** Gloria Mair (EMS) and Tanya Graves (DSS); **12** June Hunt (EMS) and Ricky Wright (Public Buildings); **13** Phyllis Clark (Health); **14** Jimmy Hall (DSS) and Mary White (EMS); **16** Malcolm McClellan (Jail) and Annie Malloy (Health); **18** Jonathan Simmons (Jail); **20** Gracie Rettig (Transportation); **23** Stephanie Hudson (Jail); **24** Mary Helen Norton (Tax), Oscar Henderson (EMS), Linda Jones (Transportation), Augusta Roper (Public Buildings) and Rhonda Cox and Elizabeth Shutt (DSS); **25** Jimmy Sanderson (Jail) and Tammy Garcia (EMS); **27** Solomon Baxley (EMS).

News of Note

507 West Covington Street eyed as emergency location

Covington Street School teachers and staff familiarized themselves with the layout of 507 West Covington Street February 8. The County administration building would be used as a safe site for students in the event of an emergency lockdown at Covington Street School. Students who would be located to 507 West Covington Street would be those who are outside the school when an emergency or crisis event occurs.

Tom Sawyer adventures come to life in the community

Scotland County Memorial Library will partner with the Storytelling and Arts Center of the Southeast (SACS) in bringing the "Big Read" to the community. The focus of the "Big Read" is the Mark Twain 1876 classic *The Adventures of Tom Sawyer*. 2,000 free copies of the book are available at the library, SACS, Chamber of Commerce, Parks and Recreation, the Literacy Council and the Laurinburg Housing Authority. Beginning in mid-March, the library and SACS will host activities related to the book including poetry and poster contests, skits, scavenger hunt, discussion groups and reenactments of scenes from the novel. A grant from the National Endowment for the Arts funded the books and activities.

Residents asked to take Community Health Assessment survey

A community health assessment is a process by which community members gain an understanding of the health, concerns, and health care systems of the community by identifying, collecting, analyzing, and disseminating information on community assets, strengths, resources and the needs of the community. The assessment will provide direction and focus for Scotland County Department of Public Health and Scotland Health Care System and other community agencies and organizations in Scotland County. This assessment will serve as a basis for improving and promoting the health of Scotland County residents. The Scotland County Department of Public Health and Scotland Health Care System encourage you to take the short online survey at <https://www.surveymonkey.com/s/ScotlandCountyCHA>. The survey can also be accessed from the www.scotlandcounty.org website main page. If you have a website for your business/industry, agency, institution, school system, church, organization, etc., please ask to have the link added to your website. The online survey is up and running now through April 10, 2013, and is completely confidential. The data gathered will then be analyzed and a report written and provided to the public at a later date. Paper copies of the survey also are available. Call Health Educator Kathie Cox at 910-277-2470, extension 4478.

Community reminded to Shop Local

Shop Local is a good thing. For every \$100 spent at locally-owned businesses, \$73 remains in the local economy, and \$27 leaves.

When you shop locally-owned businesses, your money is recirculated over and over and creates up to 75 percent more tax revenue to your community and State.

Local shopping increases local sales tax, which will bring new business to the area.

Buying from local business conserves energy and resources in the form of less fuel for transportation.

Dollars spent locally support vital public town and County services.

Local merchants care more about and invest in the community. They donate to local groups, schools, athletics and charities.

Local purchases create local jobs.

If you would like to learn more about Shop Local, go to facebook.com/shoplocalscotlandcounty.



Hammonds are Singin' in the Rain



Former Laurinburg City Clerk Dee Hammond and EMS Director Roylin Hammond hoofed their way to notoriety by winning the Judges' Choice Award during the Dancing with the Scotland Stars event at the Storytelling and Arts Center of the Southeast (SACS) February 2. The Hammonds were one of nine couples who participated in the dance competition which, along with a silent auction, served as a fundraiser for SACS. Their two-minute routine highlighted popular dance styles from the 40s to present day. Commissioner Whit Gibson emceed the competition. Photo contributed by Trish Suiter Dooling.

New park trail opens March 23

In 2011, Blue Cross/Blue Shield of North Carolina selected three economically deprived counties with significant health issues and offered \$3,000 grant opportunities to groups and organizations to improve the health of the citizens who live in those counties.

The "Spark Plug" grants set a six-month completion deadline with a goal of benefiting and improving the health of as many people as possible in the respective counties. Scotland County, one of the three selected counties, was awarded nine \$3,000 grants.

One grant was awarded to the Lumber River State Park to increase the length of its walking trails and provide park visitors more opportunities to get back to nature and improve their health at the same time.

Jeff Davidson, a park ranger, and Roylin Hammond, a park visitor, served as "Spark Plugs" in the grant application and plan to expand the park trails.

One of the challenges in expanding the trail system was to cross over some low, marshy, wetland areas in the park that had not previously been accessible to the public.

The project was not completed in the six months window because of State and federal permitting issues, the promotion and transfer of Davidson and some health issues with the local "Spark Plug."

Thanks to the diligent and dedicated work of other park rangers, volunteers, and State employees, the trail is now completed. A grand opening is scheduled for Saturday, March 23.

The 1.2-mile new trail bridges over the wetland areas and links up with other park trails that create a looped trail system in the park.

The public is invited to the opening and also invited to enjoy the exercise value of the entire trail system in the park.

With the assistance of Parks and Recreation Director Shannon Newton, the Parks and Recreation website at scotlandcounty.org features a link that identifies the new trail and contains a map of the entire park trail system.

State official discusses County unemployment

The number of people employed in the State and in Scotland County was down in 2012 compared to the same time five years ago.

Jackie Keener, an official with the State Employment Security Commission, explained that there are fewer industries than there were five years ago and existing industries hire fewer people. Keener was guest speaker at the recent meeting of the area Economic Summit group.

In December 2007, the State labor force was more than 4.5 million with 4.2 million employed and 222,852 unemployed. The unemployment rate was 4.9 percent. In December 2012, the North Carolina labor force was 4.7 million with 4.2 million employed and 444,851 unemployed for a 9.5 percent unemployment rate.

For Scotland County in December 2007, the labor force was 14,234 with 12,795 employed and 1,439 unemployed. The unemployment rate was 10.1 percent. In December 2012, the Scotland County labor force was 13,015 with 10,857 employed and 2,158 unemployed. The unemployment rate was 16.6 percent.

In the State, goods producing jobs decreased 22.1 percent from 2007 to 2012, while service producing jobs increased one percent. In Scotland County, goods producing jobs decreased 43.3 percent from 2007 to 2012, while service producing jobs increased 11 percent.



Celebrate 4-H Clovers and Company! welcomes 4-H Agent Angela Galloway

Cooperative Extension hosted *Celebrate 4-H Clovers and Company!* to praise the efforts of Scotland County 4-H members and to introduce Angela D. Galloway as 4-H Agent.

The January 22 event held at Laurinburg Presbyterian Church was attended by members of the North Carolina Cooperative Extension Advisory Council, the 4-H Advisory Council and former State Senator Bill Purcell.

Cooperative Extension Director Randy Wood and 4-H Expanded Food and Nutrition Education Program (EFNEP) 4-H Program Associate Hazel McPhatter spoke at the event, which included dinner and a recap of 4-H 2012 in photos.

Wood praised Galloway for her "out the box" ideas and passion to work with youth.

Galloway, in turn, shared particulars on her 4-H experience and how it empowered her to serve as a leader in her community, gave her the ability and knowledge to project her voice for all to hear and afforded her the opportunity to develop new relationships through cultural and educational experiences.

Galloway challenged those in attendance to recruit one adult and grant one hour a month to 4-H. She asked each youth to recruit two peers to join 4-H.

The Cloverbuds, ages 5 to 9, received certificates of participation in varying 4-H projects, as all others, ages 10 to 19 received a Certificate of Achievement for placing in 4-H categories of presentations, entertains and public speaking.

Galloway closed the evening with a quote from Dianne Ridley Roberts, "The most frightening part of helping is getting involved." Each person in attendance recited the affirmation "I will do my part for us."



Angela Galloway, right, with 4-H Clovers and Company! participants and attendees.

\$1.97 per person per day considered a community investment

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Patterson added that the 93 cents provides opportunities for the youngest children to adults who wish to return to school to make a career change. "The 93 cents assures the educational opportunities are there when needed."

Public safety is 39 cents of the \$1.97. "If you need public safety, you're having a bad day," Patterson quipped. Yet at 32 cents a day the public appreciates the presence of law enforcement as well as a jail to house those accused of breaking the law. Patterson said the cost of fuel in law enforcement outstrips the cost of its operations.

Ambulance service, 911 and emergency management is six cents a day. Referencing emergency management, Patterson said, "We're already planning for the disasters that haven't happened yet." The remaining one cent a day supports rescue squad and forestry service. "That cost would go up five times as much in rescue squad without dedicated volunteers."

Human services — social services, public health and recreation — receive another cut. Patterson discussed the 17 cents a day for social services. "A lot of people benefit from long term care through Medicaid."

He said that Medicaid brings \$70 million into the community for the hospital, physician services, prescriptions and transportation. "Medicaid is an attempt to reimburse all those providers none of

Keith Faulk thanked for helpful service

Public Buildings and Grounds employee Keith Faulk was thanked for his time and professionalism in tackling a leak at the Community Health Clinic January 31.

According to a letter sent to Public Buildings Supervisor Mike McGirt, written by Clinic Executive Director Andy Kurtzman, "We discovered a water leak in our building. Water had pooled in one of our examination rooms and was leaking out of the building."

The letter continues, "After I called the plumber and turned off the water to the building, I went to the Health Department in search of a wet vac.

"I paged maintenance and Keith answered the call. He escorted me to the maintenance shed for a wet vac and returned it to our building.

"We discovered the outlets to the room did not work, so Keith procured some mops and helped to mop the room.

"I just wanted to express my appreciation for Keith's assistance to us beyond the scope of his employ. He did what good neighbors do — helped. Thank you."

which would be here without Medicaid."

Patterson said, "Even 'welfare' checks increase disposable income for citizens with less money to spend to make purchases on things other than food."

Public health receives seven cents, a small investment for an agency focused on the health and welfare of all citizens in a community.

Parks and Recreation, which has oversight of 16 parks and gyms, and is responsible for youth and adult services and athletic programs, comes in at a cost of four cents a day. Although not mandated, it serves thousands of youth, adults and older adults annually.

Economic Development Director Greg Icard then discussed industrial recruitment, and retention and entrepreneurship as critical factors in "wealth building" a community.

Access to GIS and websites have changed how industries make site selections. "We can be evaluated before we even know we are being considered for possible site selection."

He added, "Retention and/or expansion (of an existing company) can be just as difficult as recruiting new industry because there are corporate staff who have never been here who are making decisions."

Icard said labor costs, accessibility to transportation and a skilled work force remain key to industrial recruitment.