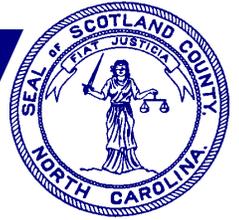


Scotland County

Monthly



MARCH 2013

A newsletter for the Scotland County community

Small Business Innovation Center a mecca for regional growth

Completion of the Small Business Innovation Center (SBIC) was one accomplishment. The announcement that a new industry was coming and a local industry was expanding was another.

The March 8 ribbon cutting at the SBIC represented a good-news event for the economic health and wealth of the County.

More than 90 people attended the ribbon cutting, including U.S., State and local business leaders and elected officials.



Officials cut the ribbon at the Small Business Innovation Center at 16800 US 401 Bypass.

Located at the intersection of 401 North and Heck Norton Road, the SBIC is 4,800 square-feet of floor space housing business offices and conference rooms. The adjoining 8,000 square-feet of industrial space is already leased. **(See related article on the right).**

"We're excited to be cutting a ribbon on something that will have such a big impact on our community as a whole," said Board of Commissioners Chairman Guy McCook.

U.S. Representative Richard Hudson said, "The biggest asset in this community is the people. This center demonstrates that and shows the commitment this community made to ensure job creation."

Hudson added, "The majority of jobs out there are small business jobs. While we're going to work hard to bring in industry and larger employers, it's important to stay focused on keeping jobs we've got here, make sure the folks who are employers in this community continue to succeed and thrive."

Hudson said the SBIC would play a crucial
see SBIC, page 4

CCL Label locates to SBIC, FCC expands next door

The ribbon cutting at the Small Business Innovation Center (SBIC) was the perfect time to welcome a new company and announce the expansion of an industry currently in Scotland County.

CCL Label signed a four-year lease to occupy the 8,000 square-feet of incubator space that adjoins the SBIC at 16800 US 401 Bypass.

CCL Label is a focused global specialty packaging company that provides packaging solutions to the home and personal care, premium food and beverage, health care and specialty markets worldwide.

CCL Label, CCL Container and CCL Cube comprise the company's three divisions. Its more than 70 manufacturing facilities are located in North America, Latin America, Asia, Australia and Africa.

The company's primary customer locally will be Unilever in Raeford. The company will create five new jobs and invest \$200,000 in the community.

"They have plans once they get established here to build a facility and expand their operations," said Board of Commissioners Chairman Guy McCook.

Additionally, FCC, North Carolina, will expand its presence in Scotland County.

Last year, FCC intended to purchase the County spec building at Laurinburg Maxton Airport (LMA) in order to add 66 new jobs and make a \$57.6 million investment.

Because the size and scope of the project changed, FCC opted to move to property next to the SBIC.

FCC will increase its investment to \$78 million and build a 160,000-square-foot facility just north of the SBIC. The expanded FCC expansion should be complete in 12 to 13 months.

"We appreciate the exceptional trust and faith FCC has in Scotland County," said McCook. "Today really is a red letter day for the community, not just because of the SBIC but because of what it means for Scotland County."



Public Works Supervisor Bryant Higgins, left, discusses the condition of the floor at the transfer station. With him are Commissioner Carol McCall, County Manager Kevin Patterson and Commissioner Whit Gibson. The landfill visit was part of a tour of County facilities for the Commissioners See page 3 for more on the tour.

PostScripts

Welcome to those individuals who joined Scotland County departments since December 16: **Judge Lipford** and **Latoya Williams**, Sheriff; **Carrie Rorie** and **Stephanie Berry**, DSS; **Lindsey Villela**, part-time with Elections; **Danilo Dirico** and **Delana Vaughn**, part-time with EMS; **Shamira Alford**, temporary with Parks and Recreation; and **Wanda Sheppard**, temporary with Tax.

Our condolences to ...

Nicole McLaurin, DSS, on the February 24 passing of her uncle, Walter Steele. Mr. Steele also worked summers at Parks and Recreation. **Shannon Newton**, Parks and Recreation, on the March 10 passing of her father, Bill Rowan. **Kim McRae**, DSS, on the March 12 passing of her father, Andrew Monroe. The family of **Glenn Lockey**, Public Works, who passed away March 17. Mr. Lockey is brother-in-law to **Felisa Lockey**, DSS, and brother-in-law to **Mike Edge**, EMS.

the Birthday list for April

1 Mark Jackson (EMS); 2 Randall Gibson (EMS) and Glenn Chatman (Public Works); 4 Buffie Hunt (EMS) and Daniel McClellan (Jail); 6 Shekesha McPhatter (DSS) and Judge Lipford (Sheriff); 9 Berta Adams (Jail); 12 Betty Smith (Health) and Michael Alford (Parks and Recreation); 13 Danilo Dirico (EMS); 14 Kisse Phy (EMS) and William Edge (Sheriff); 16 Erica Hall (Health), Jerry Johnson (Elections), Tammy Cole (DSS) and Alan Stewart (Parks and Recreation); 17 April Bartholomew (DSS); 18 April Sned (DSS); 20 Sandra McNeil (DSS); 21 Patricia Campbell (Public Buildings), Michael Woods (Sheriff) and Kevin Hudson (Jail); 22 Madeline Peele (DSS) and Annie Van Hoy (Library); 23 Roger Alford (Sheriff); 24 Marty Pate (Tax); 25 Sandra Miller (Jail); 26 Christy Lowry (EMS); 27 Tina Clark (Health); 28 Sandy McCrimmon, Jr. (Transportation) and Sharon English (Cooperative Extension); 29 Debra Sandlin (EMS).

Location for Laurinburg After Five changes to Morgan Recreation Complex

Big changes are on the way for Laurinburg After Five (LAF) as it celebrates 15 years as a successful annual community staple.

Location will be the biggest change for the event. The host site will transition from St. Andrews University to the James L. Morgan Recreation Complex at 1206 Turnpike Road.

The Morgan Complex features more family-friendly activities with its swings, splash pad and playgrounds. It is expected to draw a more diverse crowd. In addition, the concession facilities afford a more permanent restroom facility for attendees.

The dates for the event also have changed. LAF used to be held the second Thursday of the month from May to September. The first event this year will begin in April. In July it will be held the first Thursday for an Independence Day bash.

There will be no Laurinburg After Five scheduled for August, and it will move to a Friday in September.

The changes are the result of ideas shared by event goers in order to make LAF more appealing to Scotland County residents and to attract more people from surrounding counties and beyond.

In addition to changes in location and dates, some new bands have been added to the entertainment lineup.

The following is a list of dates and bands: Too Much Sylvia, Thursday, April 11; The Night Move Band, Thursday, May 9; Sea Cruz, Thursday, June 13; Carolina Breakers, Thursday, July 4; and The Tams, Friday, September 6.

To ensure Laurinburg After Five will continue to draw great bands for the events, effective this season there will be a \$1 charge per person. Children under 12 attend for free. The nominal charge for each event over the five-event series will help pay for known bands, which will increase the draw of people from surrounding areas.

Also new this year is the opportunity to be a naming sponsor. Murphy Brown has agreed to sponsor the event. Look for signs and fliers for *The Murphy Brown Laurinburg After Five*.

"The Laurinburg/Scotland County Area Chamber of Commerce is grateful to have partners like Murphy Brown, who recognize the importance of events like Laurinburg After Five in our community," said Chamber President Tonia Stephenson.

County health ranking drops in 2013

The Scotland County overall health ranking dropped from 91 in 2012 to 93 in 2013 among the 100 counties.

The overall mortality rate dropped from 93 in 2012 to 96 in 2013 among all counties, and the overall morbidity ranking dropped from 83 in 2012 to 88 in 2013.

Robeson and Bladen counties are ranked 97 and 98, respectively in 2013. Bladen was 97 and Robeson was ranked 99 in 2012. Anson and Richmond counties were 88 and 89, respectively, in 2012. In 2013, Anson moved to 86 while Richmond remained at 89.

In Scotland County, premature deaths decreased from 11,900 in 2012 to 11,100 in 2013. There are more children in poverty in Scotland County at 44 percent compared to 38 percent in 2012. The violent crime rate increased from 494 in 2012 to 530 in 2013.

Scotland County's ranking fell in all other categories as well from 2012 to 2013: In health factors from 96 in 2012 to 99 in 2013, in health behaviors from 87 to 92, in clinical care from 54 to 63, in social and economic factors from 96 to 100, in physical environment from 67 to 88.

The County Health Rankings & Roadmaps program is a collaboration between the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation and the University of Wisconsin Population Health Institute. It tracks what influences health outside of the doctor's office — in schools, workplaces and neighborhoods.

The County Health Rankings & Roadmaps is a nationwide reporting released annually. According to the website, "The County Health Rankings provide a snapshot of a community's health and a starting point for investigating and discussing ways to improve health. This guide will help you find and understand the data in this site and beyond as you begin to assess your needs and resources and focus on what's important."

Health rankings for all states and counties are available at <http://www.countyhealthrankings.org>.

Third furlough day is Easter Monday, April

Commissioners tour County facilities



EMS Director Roylin Hammond, center, stands on the site where the Emergency Operations Center/911 call center will be built. With him are, left to right, Chairman Guy McCook and Commissioners Bob Davis, Whit Gibson and Carol McCall.



Interim Health Director Wayne Raynor, center, shows Commissioners a room used for record storage.

work time be blocked every six months or so for employees to declutter their offices and the common areas in which they work.

Helipad used for trauma transport

An accident at the intersection of Hwy 501 North and Hill Creek Road prompted the first actual use of the new helipad installed by the Spring Hill Fire Department.

A Carolina Medical Center (CMC) helicopter from Charlotte landed on the helipad to evacuate a trauma patient involved in the accident. The patient was transported by helicopter back to the Trauma Center at the CMC Hospital in Charlotte.

"This is by far the most effective method to get a trauma patient to definitive care in as short a period of time as possible," said EMS Director Roylin Hammond.

"The helipad serves as a great asset in making this process a safe and effective method to evacuate patients," he added.

Spring Hill Volunteer Fire Department installed the helipad and put it in service in the summer of 2012.

The Scotland County Rescue Squad, Spring Hill Volunteer Fire Department, EMS and the Sheriff's Department assisted Carolina Medical Center Air Care in the heli-lift.

A few months before the Commissioners gather for a series of budget talks, they took a tour of facilities and grounds to assess the County's immediate and long-term capital needs.

The February 26 day-long tour, which began at 507 West Covington Street, included visits to the Courthouse and Jail, DSS, Health Department, EMS, Wagram Recreation Center and Laurel Hill Community Center. They also visited a recycling site and the Tennis Center.

One issue the Commissioners discussed at length was document storage, a topic of concern addressed by Social Services, Public Health and the Register of Deeds.

The five convenience centers also were an issue for discussion. Talks included the possibility of consolidating convenience centers by closing those that underperform and altering hours of operation so a center is open to serve the community.

One improvement not considered costly, according to Commissioners, would involve improving the general interior and exterior appearance of buildings, hallways, offices and grounds owned by the County.

It was suggested that drab, yellow paint in hallways and common areas be recoated with a brighter neutral color, and that grounds at other facilities be pruned and landscaped.

The Commissioners indicated that



Photo by Tommy Hatcher, EMS, retired

News of Note

April WOW! schedule announced

Spring "WOW!" (Workouts for Women) begin Monday, April 8 and run through Thursday, May 16 at Scotland Place. Exercise starts promptly at 5:15 p.m. WOW! is designed to help participants lose weight, strengthen and tone muscle, become more flexible, increase energy levels and learn about healthy eating. Beginners to intermediate exercisers are welcome. Cost is \$12 for the six-week session scheduled for Mondays, Tuesdays and Thursdays. The program also includes nutrition information along with the physical fitness activities. Participants must sign a liability waiver. Exercises are provided by non-certified volunteer facilitators. WOW! is sponsored by Scotland County Healthy Carolinians, Scotland County Department of Public Health and Parks and Recreation. For more information or to register, contact Health Educator Kathie Cox, 910-277-2470, extension 4478 or Parks and Recreation, 910-277-2585.

4-H looks to expand membership

4-H in Scotland County is on the up and up toward building a strong foundation as it looks to expand club membership, to afford all youth the opportunity to learn by doing and make the best better through 4-H. Since being named 4-H Extension Agent in December 2012, Angela D. Galloway met with several Scotland County residents to discuss ideas and to build relationships among citizens. Galloway attended monthly trainings, workshops and conferences, and met with 4-H advisory council members and 4-H county council members and assisted in a 4-H club membership drive. In addition, she partnered with several schools and teachers to facilitate the embryology program. She is currently collaborating with Scotland County educators to lead the Chalk Banks Challenge art/poster contest. Galloway looks forward to expanding the current 4-H clubs from community, and shooting sports to horse, livestock, sewing and robotics. Volunteers may receive training and assistance from the N.C. Cooperative Extension office. Volunteers do not have to lead a club alone. Another adult may act as co-club leader. Join the revolution of responsibility by joining the 4-H team as a volunteer. Contact Galloway at 910-277-2422. Like 4-H on facebook at www.facebook.com/scotlandcounty4h.

April 10 is the deadline for County residents to participate in the Community Health Assessment survey at <https://www.surveymonkey.com/sl> ScotlandCountyCHA

SBIC marks official opening

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role in helping people start businesses and create jobs in the County. "You've got my commitment to be a partner with you to continue to bring jobs to this community."

Creation of the SBIC was a collaborative effort that included Scotland County Economic Development Corporation (SCEDC), the County, the City of Laurinburg, Richmond Community College and the Southeastern Economic Development Commission.

The RCC Small Business Center will be located at the SBIC, and career readiness certificate programs to ensure workers are job-ready will be conducted at the site.

The SBIC was funded by grants from the North Carolina Economic Developers Association, Golden LEAF Foundation and the Rural Center.

"Without all these people on the front end of this, we would not have been able to get to this point," said Economic Development Director Greg Icard.

He added that almost all the sub-contractors who worked on the project were local. "That was pretty important. We put people in this community to work."

"We're going to create more jobs. We're going to create more opportunities for our citizens, and we're going to do it together," said Laurinburg City Mayor Tommy Parker, who praised the SBIC. Parker pointed out that the SBIC is a Butler building built by a local company and designed by the son of a local family.

"I'm excited that today we realize an innovative concept that began in 2009," said former Commissioner and immediate past Chair of the SCEDC Joyce McDow. "This is a beautiful building reflective of the history and heritage of Scotland County — a building we can show off with pride."

"We broke ground in the spring of 2012, and now we are all here celebrating our success, which you can see throughout the building," said Icard.

"There's a lot of symbolism in the building and a lot of history," Icard added. "Each manufacturer will have an item in the building so a company or client will be able to see what we have currently."

"I'll be able to show them where we're headed," said Icard. "Everyone will be able to see there's a reason for hope and there's good things to come."

Icard said of the ribbon cutting, "This is not the end of the story. This is just the beginning."

Spring Litter Sweep becomes weeklong event as of April 15

Let's talk trash. No, it is not a sexy subject, but it is a reality in all of our lives.

Most of us are responsible when it comes to trash but, unfortunately, there are many people who believe our streets and roadways are their trashcans.

Have you ever passed an area littered with fast food cups, wrappers and half-eaten food? Or you might see areas where it appears someone brought trash bags from their home just to throw them out their car window as they drove down the road.

Either way, trash is unsightly and must be addressed. The Chamber of Commerce Green Committee does just that.

A recent Anti-Litter Campaign launched by the Green Committee encourages local fast food restaurants to advertise the downside of littering.

The restaurants have been receptive. Many agreed to work with the Green Committee to help spread the word.

In conjunction with this new campaign, the Green Committee will once again host the semi-annual Litter Sweep, this time allowing for a longer timeframe.

Spring Litter Sweep this year will span an entire week instead of one day. The week of April 15 will be devoted to the Spring Litter Sweep. Groups are asked to gather anytime throughout the week to conduct their Litter Sweep and be eligible for cash prizes.

The group that collects the most in weight in litter will receive a \$200 prize. A \$100 prize will go to the second place winner.

Litter Sweep participants this year will receive a free fast food item as a thank you from the Chamber and the Green Committee as a gesture of appreciation for donating time to clean up the streets and roads.

The Green Committee invites the community to support Spring Litter Sweep whether individuals belong to a Sunday School class, a Boy Scout troop, a service organization or just have friends or family members who want to be involved.

Register for the Litter Sweep at the Chamber and pick up supplies of vests, gloves and orange trash bags.



Register at the Chamber of Commerce to take part in the 2013 Spring Litter Sweep.

County's economic indicators and opportunities analyzed

Efforts to locate business and industry to an area are no longer competitive state to state. They are globally competitive.

Steve Yost, President of North Carolina's Southeast, said in order to be competitive and successful in economic development, counties like Scotland must focus on product development that allows for small industry and business development.

Yost praised Scotland County for its focus on product development, citing the opening of the Small Business Innovation Center (SBIC), which serves as a small business resource for the entire southeast region.

Yost said successful economic development also requires strategic planning and local funding/investment.

He said local funding/investment is critical to counter dependency on State and federal funding, which can be uncertain at times.

Public and private leadership with regard to economic development must be unified, Yost said, and community leaders must understand their roles and not work at cross purposes in order to get results.

Yost stressed the importance of Richmond Community College in training a skilled workforce. Gone are the traditional jobs of unskilled labor. Industry is now more efficient, employing fewer, but increasingly better paying jobs.

Those jobs will not require a traditional four-year degree but will require more than a high school diploma.