

Scotland County

Monthly



MAY 2013

A newsletter for the Scotland County community

FCC prepares for paper production plant

FCC North Carolina, LLC, reaffirmed its commitment to doing business in Scotland County with a groundbreaking ceremony at a site adjacent to the Small Business Innovation Center (SBIC).

The company plans to build a 160,000-square-foot paper production plant at the site on US 401 Bypass at Heck Norton Road. 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 an \$80 million investment in the community and intends to create more than 90 jobs.

"A day like today means a lot in our community," said Chairman Guy McCook. "It means we get to grow and become a larger, more vital community."

McCook told the more than 50 people assembled to celebrate the groundbreaking, and the project became reality because the community worked collaboratively. "Because of the collaborative effort, we welcome FCC as the first building at the SBIC industrial site."

FCC began production at its Laurel Hill plant in 2001, which involves manufacturing processes that include the assembly of clutches, ATVs and the segmented friction process. Ford and Chrysler soon will join FCC customers Honda and Suzuki.

Economic Development Director Greg Icard said, "This is the beginning of a process, and it is a great day for FCC, the County and the City of Laurinburg."



The land behind Chairman Guy McCook is the site where FCC will build its paper production plant.

Commissioners ask legislators to restore lottery funds for school capital



Senator Gene McLaurin, second from right, updates Scotland County Commissioners on current legislative issues. With McLaurin are, left to right, Vice Chair Carol McCall, Commissioner Whit Gibson and Chairman Guy McCook.

A group of Commissioners asked legislators to fully restore lottery funding for school capital in the State budget.

The Commissioners personally met with Representatives Garland Pierce and Ken Goodman and Senator Gene McLaurin in order to advocate for full restoration of school capital funds.

When the State lottery was originally established, counties received 40 percent of lottery proceeds earmarked specifically for

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Litter Sweep is big

15 teams over the course of a week picked up more than 11,000 pounds of trash during the 2013 Spring Litter Sweep April 15 to 20.

The haul surpasses the 1,500 to 2,000 pounds of trash picked up in previous years.

That's because the Chamber of Commerce Green Committee promoted a weeklong litter sweep rather than the half day sweeps that were held in previous years.

Solid Waste Enforcement Officer and Green Committee member J.R. "Bobby" Horne said the extension of the Litter Sweep over a week made it more convenient for volunteers to participate and pick up trash as their

schedules permitted.

As in previous years, cash prizes were awarded to two teams for picking up the most litter.

First place winning team, the King of the Mountain, receives \$200 for picking up the most trash from County roadways, while the second place team earns \$100.

"Out of the 15 teams, we had two teams, each made up of two women, who picked up around 7,000 pounds of trash," Horne said.

He added, "Due to the makeup of these two teams and the amount of trash each team collected was so close, the Green Committee decided to award two King of the Mountain awards of \$200 each."

Green Committee Chair Leroy McIntrye said, "We couldn't give just one award when these teams virtually picked up the same amount. In addition, something felt wrong about giving a King of the Mountain so, for this year only, the top award was re-named Queen of the Mountain in honor of the four women who collected around 7,000 pounds of trash."

see 'Queen', page 2

Fire closes part of Dragon Park



Laurinburg Police and the Fire Department are investigating a fire that closed down a portion of Dragon Park earlier this month. County Manager Kevin Patterson estimated the damage at about \$5,000.

the Birthday list for June

2 Linda Locklear (Tax); **4** Shamira Alford (Parks and Recreation); **5** Stephanie McDonald (Cooperative Extension); **7** Bryant Higgins (Public Works) and Mary Ann Reynolds (Sheriff); **10** William Aaronson (Sheriff); **11** Carolyn Allen (DSS) and Heather Fontenot (Sheriff); **12** Sharon Davis (Transportation); **14** Iris Hamilton (Parks and Recreation); **16** Benjamin Hunt (EMS); **17** Brooke Barrett-Quick (DSS); **18** Sheronica Smith (Sheriff) and Crystal McNair (Jail); **20** Karen Goins (Health); **21** Linda Holland (Administration) and Garrett Dial (EMS); **22** Greg Icard (Economic Development); **23** Selena Locklear (Health); **24** Jamie Hunt (EMS); **25** Phillip Miles (Public Buildings); **27** Evangela McArthur (Health), Jonathan Dunn (Sheriff) and Laura Byrd (EMS); **28** Glenn Tucker and Inga Locklear (EMS); **29** Vicki Barnes (DSS); **30** Randy Wood (Cooperative Extension).

Residents who receive Food Stamps or who are enrolled in Medicaid, Work First and Health Choice or earn 300 percent of the federal poverty guidelines may be eligible for \$10 spay and neuter for their pets. The Humane Society has more information at 910-276-9271 or customerservice@scotlandhumane.org.

'Queen' teams pick up the most litter

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The ladies who made up the team known as The Cousins are Hilary Kelly and Sharon Nicholson, and the ladies who comprised the team of M&M Power Girls are Amanda Medlin and Jessica Mounce.

The runner up team, Laurel Hill Girl Scout Troop #1723, picked up almost 2,000 pounds of trash and received a cash prize of \$100. The team, ranging in age from 6 to 16, picked up trash while gracious firefighters from Laurel Hill helped with traffic.

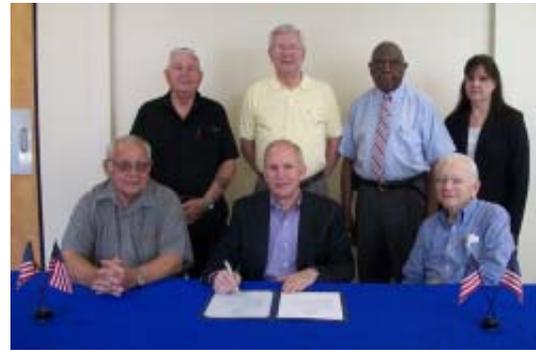
"Getting volunteers involved is a great education tool to show we care about our community and want to keep it clean," Horne said.

He credited much of the success to Spring Litter Sweep business partners. Nic's Pic Kwik distributed lunch April 20 to all staff at the recycle centers. Pizza Hut, Pizza Inn and KFC distributed meal coupons to volunteers who picked up litter. The NC Department of Transportation played a vital role in making sure volunteers had the appropriate supplies for the litter sweep.



Thomas Milligan, Inspections, assisted young volunteers picking up litter.

Memorial Day Proclamation signed



Chairman Guy McCook, seated center, signed a Memorial Day Proclamation honoring the service and sacrifice veterans made for their country and community. Those who witnessed the signing were Jimmy Bennett, Army/National Guard, seated left; John Edens, Navy, seated right; standing, left to right, Jerry Weinreis, Navy/Air Force; Bill Owens, Air Force; Ben McNeill, Army; and Mildred Williams, Veterans Service Officer.

PostScripts

County Manager **Kevin Patterson** received the Credentialed Manager designation from ICMA, the International City/County Management Association. Patterson is one of more than 1,200 local government management professionals currently credentialed through the ICMA Voluntary Credentialing Program. To receive the prestigious ICMA credential, a member must have significant experience as a senior management executive in local government; have earned a degree, preferably in public administration or a related field; and demonstrated a commitment to high standards of integrity and to lifelong learning and professional development. Patterson is qualified by nine years of professional local government executive experience, which includes service as County Manager and, prior to that, Assistant County Manager and Finance Officer. ☼ **Thomas Milligan**, Inspections, recently qualified for the highest certificates available in each of the five inspection fields. The fields are building inspection, plumbing inspection, electrical inspection, mechanical (heating and air conditioning) inspection and fire prevention inspection. Milligan was certified by the North Carolina Code Officials Qualifications Board. Of the estimated 3,800 inspectors in the State, Milligan is one of 221 code officials to achieve the maximum number of top level certificates. ☼ New employees joining Scotland County are **Justin McNickle**, Parks and Recreation; **Mark Haux**, Public Buildings; **Kimberly Spry**, Tax; **April Martin**, **Ashley Faulk**, **Marquitia Rainer** and **Michelle Locklear**, DSS; and **Cassandra Fields**, part-time, Sheriff. ☼ **Scotland Place Crochet Club** is busy making lap robes to give to those who might need them. If anyone has yarn they would like to donate for the Crochet Club projects, please contact Parks and Recreation at 910-277-2585. ☼ Finance Officer **Charles Nichols** has been named Laurinburg City Manager, his new duties become effective July 1.



Scam Jam full house

Senior Activities Coordinator Doris Ann Donovan, left, reviews documents on display at Scam Jam, an event that attracted more than 60 seniors who wanted pointers on how not to be a victim of scams, fraud and identity theft. Scam Jam featured speakers from the Office of the Attorney General, Secretary of State and Department of Justice.

Commissioners ask legislators for support

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school capital projects. Scotland County received a little more than \$700,000.

Two years ago, State legislature reduced the 40 percent designated to counties to 22 percent. That meant Scotland County received about \$400,000, an estimated \$300,000 less than it previously received.

This year, State lawmakers are considering returning all lottery funds to the General Fund and making appropriations to counties for school capital.

Chairman Guy McCook, Vice Chair Carol McCall and Commissioners Bob Davis and Whit Gibson, accompanied by County Manager Kevin Patterson, Finance Officer Charles Nichols, Tax Administrator Mary Helen Norton and Economic Development Director Greg Icard to Raleigh May 22 in order to advocate on behalf of Scotland County.

The Commissioners also asked the three lawmakers to protect funding for the Rural Center and GoldenLEAF, which provide grants to rural counties that support economic development and promote job growth.

The advocacy was in conjunction with the annual County Assembly Day. County Assembly Day is an opportunity for North Carolina county officials to meet with and hear from state legislative leaders and meet with their state legislative representatives.

Our condolences to ...

Amber Watson, EMS, on the April 25 passing of her father Angus Watson, **Brian Lowry**, Health, on the May 2 passing of his father-in-law James Jacobs; **Marcia Coble**, DSS retiree, on the April 24 passing of her husband James Coble; **Frances Moody**, Health, on the May 9 passing of her husband James Moody.

Report tells of community service

An 18-minute video complete with testimonials demonstrated the return on investment Cooperative Extension brings to a community.

Highlighting the impact Cooperative Extension has on the community, Director Randy Wood said the agency had face-to-face interaction with 9,700 individuals.

Wood said of the video, "This is a small taste of what we do for the population of Scotland County. We hope the citizens we serve provide an excellent return on your tax dollars."

With a \$456,000 budget in FY 2013, the County portion was \$147,000. Funds from NC State, NCA&T State University, the federal government, grants and user fees make up the remainder of its funds.

In the past year Cooperative Extension held 362 educational events and helped 90 agribusiness or restaurant employees maintain their certifications.

South Central District Extension Director Clinton McRae praised the Scotland County agency for its commitment to serving the community. He said the State Cooperative Extension is ranked number two in the nation behind Texas. "That's due to healthy county partnerships and strong advisory councils."

McRae added he appreciates the value and trust Scotland County places on its local Cooperative Extension.



Family and Consumer Science Educator Sharon English, left, shares a Parenting Matters lesson with Lenora Clark, a granparent raising two grandchildren. English and Clark were featured in Solutions for North Carolina, the Cooperative Extension Program at North Carolina Agricultural and Technical State University publication.



The new EOC and 911 Center hasn't gone out to bid yet, but work started on clearing the construction site in order to move underground cabling and other utilities that are critical to the day to day operation of Emergency Services. 99 trees were cut down to make way for the new facility. Public Buildings Supervisor Mike McGirt was instrumental in getting the clearing process accomplished. McGirt said having the trees cleared will help his department do its job more efficiently since there will not be as many obstacles when it comes to maintenance of County grounds. Photo by Tommy Hatcher.

EMS commences Red Fridays to honor the Armed Services

Effective May 24, EMS staff changed uniform in recognition of all military active duty and retired service men and women for what they have done and continue to do for our country.

Every Friday thereafter will be called Red Friday at EMS. Staff will wear red uniform tee shirts in recognition of all Armed Services personnel past, present, and future.

This is not unique to Scotland County and is done in other areas of the United States as well.

EMS Director Roylin Hammond said, "It is a small token of appreciation and serves as a reminder of what many have sacrificed for those of us who live in the United States and who enjoy the freedom we take for granted every single day."

Generator assists in disasters

Text and photo by Roylin Hammond, EMS

Emergency Management recently acquired a 150 KW mobile diesel generator for \$43,000. The generator was funded by a 2010 Department of Homeland Security grant.

It will be added to resources the County already has in place for use in disaster situations, such as the recent tornado in Oklahoma.

Although titled to Scotland County, it will be listed as an available resource for North Carolina Emergency Management.

Scotland County will assume the responsibility of housing and maintaining the generator and will make it available to surrounding jurisdictions when the need arises.

Scotland County will have the first shot at putting the generator into service if needed locally.



Hidden history brought to light

In cupboards and drawers and stored in cabinets at Sweet Expressions @ The Gill House are documents and albums that chronicle the life and times of a family and a community.

Register of Deeds Debra Holcomb, pictured, and Historic Properties Commission member Lee Gaunt uncovered some of this history during a recent visit to the downtown restaurant.



Holcomb is investigating the possibility of securing funds to scan and permanently preserve some of the documents critical to the history and early beginnings of Scotland County.

Holcomb and Gaunt spent a few hours sifting through documents and correspondence, looking at Gill family photographs and taking stock of material and books stored in the attic of the historic home.

Junior Leadership group balances the budget

County Manager Kevin Patterson challenged Junior Leadership participants to balance a budget during a visit to County offices in May. The group tackled the budget project using poker chips and a game card that listed County needs and State required services by department. The Junior Leadership program is sponsored by the Chamber of Commerce and teaches participants about their community and gives them an opportunity to learn real world information to help them to become more educated leaders for their future. Participants are high school juniors.



Relay for Life teams being organized

Scotland County Relay for Life® has enjoyed strong support from the County and neighboring counties over the years. 2013 will be no exception. In 2012, 47 teams raised nearly \$272,000. And, for the fifth straight year, Scotland County ranked first in the nation for its population and monies raised for The American Cancer Society. Teams are already organizing fundraisers for the fall event September 27 to 28 at Pate Stadium. If you or someone you know wishes to form a team, please attend the Team Captain's meeting 6 p.m. Monday, June 17, at the Dulin Center on the Scotland Memorial Hospital campus. Teams will meet once a month to discuss fundraising ideas and general business items. Registration can be completed on-line and the cost is \$10 per person. If you or a team member are a cancer survivor, there is no registration fee. If you would like information in advance or would like to register a team, contact Lynda McMillan at lmcmillan@scotlandcounty.org.

Ricky Wright receives sincere thanks

Annie Freeman at Cooperative Extension wanted to thank Ricky Wright on the Public Buildings staff, so she wrote a note to his supervisor, Mike MCGirt. "Just wanted to take a minute to brag on one of the maintenance guys, Ricky (Wright). He always shows up smiling and more than willing to help with whatever is needed! When our tables were the wrong size today, he did not hesitate to go dumpster diving and find our boxes, take the tables down after he had just put them up and box them for us as they were too heavy for us women to lift and we did not have a male in our office at the time. Again, Ricky never complained and has been a joy to work with. Just thought you might like to know this!"

Library schedules summer reading program

Scotland County Memorial Library will attract youth and families with the following Summer Reading Program schedule: June 19, Snake Man, 10:30 a.m. and 12:30 p.m.; June 25, Bright Star Theatre, 10:30 a.m. and 2 p.m.; July 2, Tyris Jones, 2 p.m.; July 10, Carolina Raptors, 10 a.m. and 1:30 p.m.; July 24, NC Zoo, 10:30 a.m. and 2 p.m.; and July 31, Obakunle Akinlana, 10:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m.