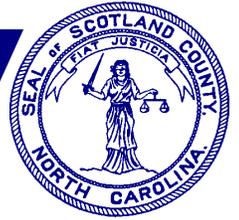


Scotland County

Monthly



NOVEMBER 2012

A newsletter for Scotland County employees and the community



Vice Chair Joyce McDow and Chairman Bob Davis.

Outgoing Commissioner McDow praised

Before the regular November Board of Commissioners meeting got underway, Chairman Bob Davis presented Vice Chair Joyce McDow with a plaque of appreciation and a Chamber of Commerce gift certificate.

The Board of Commissioners recognized McDow for eight years of service as a Commissioner. She served two of those years as Vice Chair. In addition, she was recognized for her two years of service as Chair of the Scotland County Economic Development Corporation.

As a parting gesture, Davis said, "Since this is Joyce's last official meeting, I'm going to turn the gavel over to her and she's going to conduct the rest of our business."

McDow, who also serves on the Richmond Community College Board of Trustees, Scotland Memorial Foundation and Library Advisory Board and numerous other groups, said, "I believe in giving back to the community, and that was one way I've done that over the past eight years. I enjoy what I do. Thank you so much for your support over the years."

Local channel 2 goes dark briefly

Local Community Access Channel (CACTV) 2 went dark for a few weeks in late November and early December.

"The station is going to have repairs done that will require up to two weeks or more of time," said Station Manager and St. Andrews University Professor Sean Moore. "No programming or message slides will be aired during this time."

Moore added, "The main device that runs the programming stopped operating properly and was shipped to the manufacturer for repair."

Moore indicated that the manufacturer will require two to three days to repair the device before it is shipped back to Laurinburg.

"The device is still under warranty," Moore said. "But the holiday will cause some delay in the entire process."

Reinstallation of the device and the installation of other products will have to be planned with Imagenation Systems from Raleigh.

CACTV programming includes televised meetings of the County Commissioners, Laurinburg City Council, Board of Education, religious services along with area message slides.

Sales tax referendum defeated at the polls

The one-quarter percent sales tax referendum was defeated by a sizable margin November 6. 4,494 voters supported the referendum while 7,880 voted against it.

"14,000 people turned out to vote, and we just weren't able to reach the majority of the voters," said County Manager Kevin Patterson.

In the month before the general election, Patterson and several Commissioners launched an information campaign on the one-quarter percent sales tax — and the \$600,000 revenue it would generate annually — through speaking engagements with numerous groups, clubs, civic organizations and churches.

"If it had been an off-year, off-presidential cycle, the referendum probably would have had a much better chance of passing because you would reach habitual voters," Patterson explained.

Patterson said most groups who received the information were in favor of the referendum.

"Anybody who came in cold and voted on the topic probably voted no," Patterson added.

The County Manager said the Commissioners at some time in the future might entertain further referendum discussions. "It will become necessary to at least broach the subject again."

Patterson said it would be beneficial to pursue referendum discussions and the distribution of information well ahead of the election.

"A larger group of citizens could take up the idea and spread the information, as well," Patterson said. "The more people who get behind the referendum and truly endorse the idea and put information out there — that would be beneficial."

Patterson said the outcome of the November 6 polling didn't come as a surprise. "Scotland County introduced it for the first time. A number of counties that initially brought it up also saw the referendum defeated by a significant margin."

Patterson said many of the counties that brought it back again saw the referendum passed by voters the second time around.

The one-quarter percent sales tax referendum was permitted by the General Assembly as a method for counties to pursue another means of generating an unrestricted revenue stream.

If approved at the polls, the one-quarter percent sales tax would have applied to anyone who shopped in Scotland County, although some restrictions applied.

"Any time the revenue stream is not allowed to expand out then the dependency on property taxes grows," Patterson said.

2013 Board of Commissioners Meeting Schedule

January 7, 2012 at 6:30 p.m.
(meeting as the Water Districts Board)

January 7, 2013

February 4, 2013

March 4, 2013

April 2, 2013 (Tuesday)

May 6, 2013

June 3, 2013 at 6:30 p.m.
(meeting as the Water Districts Board)

June 3, 2013

July 9, 2013 (Tuesday)

August 5, 2013

September 3, 2013 (Tuesday)

October 7, 2013

November 4, 2013

December 2, 2013

NOTE: Meetings are scheduled for the first Monday of the month with the exception of April, July and September.

All regular meetings begin at 7 p.m. in the A.B. Gibson Center Board Room, 322 S. Main Street, Laurinburg

Water District Boards meet 6:30 p.m. in January and June

the Birthday list for December

2 Dorothy Malloy (Jail) and Kimberly Cheek (DSS); **5** Wendy Stanton (DSS) and David Newton and Gyivan Collins-Jackson (Sheriff); **6** Tracie Patterson (EMS); **7** Guy McCook (Commissioner); **8** James Nichols (Jail); **9** John Willenburg (Public Buildings), Richard Goforth (Cooperative Extension) and Robert Jones (Transportation); **10** Gina Paul (EMS); **11** Tammy Kellogg (DSS); **13** James Pegues (Sheriff); **15** Morrison Lockey (EMS) and James Brown (Tax); **17** Latisha Manning (DSS) and Kathie Cox (Health); **18** Nicki Peek (Health); **19** Louise Williams (Library) and Ronetta Hunt (EMS); **20** Gail Wright (Administration), Wanda Hassler (Health) and Earl Haywood (Sheriff); **21** Teresa Gorden (DSS); **23** Barbara Ledbetter (DSS), Charles Crifasi (Jail) and Hattie Ray (Elections); **24** Sandra Leonard (DSS); **26** John Alford (Commissioner); **27** Elfreda Chavis (DSS) and Holly Storey (EMS); **29** Maisha McLaurin (DSS); **30** Tracy Lytch (DSS); **31** Danielle Wilkins (Health) and Justin McNickle (Parks and Recreation).

PostScripts

Welcome to employees hired as of August 16: **Kenneth Bedell**, part-time with EMS; **Darlene Baker, Jerome Alford** and **Kimberly Foy**, Jail; **Dorothy Malloy**, part-time with the Jail; **Christopher Littles**, part-time with Parks and Recreation; **William Aaronson**, Sheriff; **Lori Habisch, Carolyn Walls** and **Latisha Manning**, DSS; **James Brown**, Tax; and **Sharon Brandon**, Register of Deeds. **☼ Mike McGirt**, Public Buildings, received certification as a Professional Energy Manager from the Institute of Energy Professionals. McGirt had to complete a seven-month course where he studied in Raleigh two days a month and passed a written exam. McGirt is now well-versed on every aspect of energy management. **☼ The Tennis Center** will host a Round Robin Doubles Social 1 p.m. Saturday, December 15. Participation fee will be a new, unopened gift for a child, which will be donated to **Christmas Cheer**. **☼ David Morrison** returned to Cooperative Extension part-time to serve farms and commercial horticulture. Morrison retired from Cooperative Extension in 2009 after 30 years of service as agricultural extension agent.



Cooperative Extension staff dressed for Halloween. Pictured, left to right, are Hazel McPhatter, Dr. Bea Healthy, Sarah Brown, Mother of Leaves, and Annie Freeman, The Biker.

Our condolences to ...

James McQueen, DSS, on the November 10 passing of his grandfather John Clarence Davis.

Carlson honored for 17 years of service

Lumber River Council of Governments (LRCOG) staff used the Board of Commissioners November meeting as a platform to honor Mary Carlson, a Scotland County resident with a lengthy history of volunteerism.

"Ms. Carlson has been a dedicated and faithful volunteer to the Regional Long Term Care Ombudsman Program and the Senior Nutrition Program (Meals on Wheels) in Scotland County," said LRCOG Regional Longterm Care Ombudsman Twilla Allen.

The Commissioners appointed Carlson as a LRCOG community advisory committee member in February 1995, and she has since dedicated her time advocating for older and disabled adults who reside in the County's skilled nursing facilities. In 1997, Carlson broadened her commitment to Scotland County by becoming a Meals on Wheels volunteer.

"She not only delivered hot nutritious meals but also a warm genuine smile to many who were no longer able to prepare their own food," said LRCOG Nutrition Program Director Michelle Gaitley. "She knew them as her neighbors and not just as clients. She took volunteer service seriously and gave 100 percent."



Mary Carlson, center, is flanked by staff from the Lumber River Council of Governments. They are, left to right, Margaret Kelly, Michelle Gaitley, Twilla Allen and Jan Hester Maynor.

Club makes baby hats for hospital



Using an array of bright spring colors and neutral earth tones, the Crochet Club made baby hats (pictured at left) for newborns at Scotland Memorial Hospital.

The project reminds parents of the importance of preventing infant injury.

The Crochet Club meets 2 p.m. to 4 p.m. Wednesdays at Scotland Place. Call 277-2585 to join or to receive more information.