

Scotland County

Monthly



SEPTEMBER 2012

A newsletter for the Scotland County community

D.C. fly-in promotes goodwill

The September 2012 Chamber of Commerce fly-in was viewed as a mission to promote goodwill rather than one in which community representatives asked for earmarks.

"Because of the situation with the federal budget and the gridlock in Congress, we couldn't go up asking for a whole lot," County Manager Kevin Patterson explained.

The Chamber fly-in is an annual event where elected officials in Congress invite their constituents to the capitol for a business and economic development summit.

Those from Scotland County who took advantage of the invitation were Chairman Bob Davis, Patterson, Chamber representatives Becca Hughes, David McLamb and Allen McLaurin, Scotland Memorial Hospital's Kirsten Dean and City Council Member Drew Williamson. The group met with Senator Kay Hagan, Representative Larry Kissell and legislative aides with the office of Senator Richard Burr.

Patterson said the group expressed concerns about sequestration, and if it does occur, that there is administrative flexibility, at least on the State level, if funds for mandated programs are reduced or eliminated. As an example, Patterson said the County might administratively be permitted to reduce some of the eligibility paperwork from 30 pages down to 20 pages or find some other savings that would help the County reduce the time costs.

Sequestration is the formal term for mandatory cuts to federal programs – the process of cordoning off money that may have been authorized by Congress but is now prohibited from being spent. Literally, the money is being "sequestered" – taken away from the federal agencies affected.

"The biggest response from the legislators we visited was an intent not to allow sequestration to happen," Patterson said. "All three offices were fairly unanimous in stating that nothing would happen before the November election."

Patterson said the trip was beneficial and substantive. "In this environment, you're not bringing back earmarks or anything like that. Earmarks are gone for several years. But you still have to maintain a relationship with your federal legislators, their offices and staff so that in the future, if you do need their support, it makes it a lot easier to gain that support on an issue."

He added, "Congressmen invite us to Washington, D.C. to attend so it works a lot toward building that relationship that you actually go up and see them on their turf."



Community participants in the Chamber fly-in were, left to right, Laurinburg City Council Member Drew Williamson, Becca Hughes, Chamber of Commerce; Kirsten Dean, Scotland Memorial Hospital; David McLamb and Allen McLaurin, Chamber of Commerce; and Chairman Bob Davis. Photo by Kevin Patterson, Administration

Community center wanted, but property taxes an issue

Most people surveyed indicated they would like an indoor community center constructed in Scotland County but not if it would increase property taxes.

The information was compiled from a telephone survey of 200 Scotland County residents, half of whom live in the City of Laurinburg.

The survey was conducted in August 2012 to determine the level of support an indoor community center might have among residents of Scotland County.

Results of the scientific poll were weighted and projected to represent the larger adult population of Scotland County residents.

A total of 74 percent of respondents said they would be very likely (38 percent) or somewhat likely (36 percent) to use a community center.

95 percent of those surveyed said they would like a community center to offer activities for adults who are not senior citizens.

see Public, page 2

Summit on recruitment yields useful information

The ability of companies to turn a profit weighs heavily in their decision to locate in a community.

When it comes to locating to a certain area, according to a 2011 survey of manufacturers, most indicated highway accessibility as the number one concern.

Labor costs, the availability of skilled labor, corporate tax rate, occupancy or construction costs, state and local incentives, energy availability and costs, tax exemptions, proximity to major markets and low union profile followed in what matters most to manufacturers.

The data was provided by Dr. Jonathan Q. Morgan from the School of Government during an Economic Development Summit attended by local elected and civic leaders. The summit was part of a Small Business Center class hosted by RCC at its Scotland County campus.

Dr. Morgan added, "More and more companies are requiring some education beyond high school. Quality of life factors don't seem to matter as much as profitability and a skilled labor. These issues are the first order of business before they look at the softer things."

see Success, page 3

Short-term fall prevention class turns into weekly lunch and learn session

What started as a short-term program designed to enhance balance and prevent falls among seniors transitioned into regular weekly lunch and learn sessions at Scotland Place.

"The seniors involved in the program and the lunch (which began in the spring of 2012) enjoyed it so much they asked that the program continue," said Senior Program Coordinator Doris Ann Donovan.

Now the group of roughly 15 members ages 55 to 94 meets every Monday for lunch and to listen to a presentation by a guest speaker.

Donovan said, "Inviting guest speakers evolved over several months. The lunch program began with discussions of problems and how to solve them."

After a particularly bad storm downed trees and caused blackouts, the lunch group wanted to know more about who to call and what services were available in the community.

"I decided there has got to be an educational piece to everything we do here. It can't just be come in, eat lunch and go," said Donovan. "This is a very interactive group. They are civic-minded. They are community-minded. They want to know what's going on. They will ask questions, and we try and find the answers."

Speakers currently are booked through November. "There's always an idea coming next," Donovan said. "We've had very little trouble getting speakers to come. Most everyone will come. They know the people are learning about their services, and this is communication at its best."

Future guests include Laurinburg City Manager Ed Burchins, DSS Director Robby Hall, Community Health Clinic Director Andy Kurtzman and a representative from the Lion's Club who will explain why the Club seeks donations of used eyeglasses.

Past speakers included representatives from the Laurinburg City Police Department and the Sheriff's Office, accompanied by their canine officers. The visit inspired continued talks about service animals.

"A speaker from Scotland Memorial Hospital talked about Lifeline and other programs, including hats for newborns," Donovan said. This interested the group so much the hospital delivered yarn to them. "The group would meet Wednesday afternoons to make hats for newborns," Donovan said. "They recently delivered 138 hats to the hospital."

Each participant pays \$2 for the lunch, which Donovan described as a break-even amount. The two-hour weekly program includes lunch, speaker presentation, a question and answer session, exercise from the fall prevention program and general discussion about the next program.

Donovan said, "If anybody has an idea for a lunch topic, yes, we are willing to try anything within reason."

She concluded, "There is great communication and this is a fun group to work with."

Fall-O-Ween for youth is October 19

Wagram Recreation Center will host its 2nd annual Fall-O-Ween 4 p.m. to 6:30 p.m. Friday, October 19. Youth ages 13 and younger are encouraged to attend. Cost is \$2. Activities include bingo, face-painting, cake walk and much more. Drinks, candy and prizes will be given to all youth. Children ages 8 and under must be accompanied by an adult.

Public response gauged for community center

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Of the 14 suggested programs or activities, the following eight were each favored by at least nine in 10 respondents: swimming pool, 94%; activities for children, 94%; group exercise classes, 94%; indoor walking track, 93%; activities for teenagers, 93%; health education classes, 93%; exercise equipment, 91%.

Respondents were less interested in community meeting space (78%) and art classes or studios (72%).

Those who said they were "very likely" to use the community center were significantly more interested than other respondents in an indoor walking track and gymnasium.

The overall average amount respondents were willing to pay per visit was \$7.20. The average was based on a range of payments from \$3 to \$10 per visit.

Those surveyed were asked to select a site for a community center from three potential locations — the Morgan Recreation Complex, a site on Lauchwood Drive near Scotland Memorial Hospital and a site near downtown Laurinburg.

Four out of 10 (42%) favor this community center being located at the Morgan Complex. The location on Lauchwood Drive near the hospital received nearly as much support overall (36%) as the Morgan Complex. The downtown Laurinburg location was favored by only two in 10 respondents (18%).

When asked if some type of tax increase would be necessary to pay for building and operation of a community center, six of 10 adults surveyed (58%) said they would oppose a tax increase.

A similar sentiment was shared by citizens September 17 during two public input sessions held at the Laurinburg City Council Chamber and at the Dulin Center at Scotland Memorial Hospital.

The telephone survey was funded by the City of Laurinburg, the Scotland County Parks and Recreation Foundation and Scotland Memorial Hospital.

Household selection was accomplished through random digit dialing.

Scotland County residents have opportunity to share their opinions on an indoor community center by answering 10 questions as part of an informal survey.

To answer the 10 questions, access Parks and Recreation from the Scotland County main page at www.scotlandcounty.org and click on "take survey now."



County Manager Kevin Patterson discussed the one-quarter percent sales tax referendum at a recent Lunch with Doris Ann session.

Farmers Market highlights healthy eating with fruits, vegetables

The Department of Public Health and Cooperative Extension hosted *Fruit and Veggies — More Matters Month* to promote the health benefits of eating fruits and vegetables.

"Research shows that fruit and vegetables are vital to maintain good health yet most of us are not eating enough fruit and vegetables," said Cardra Burns, WIC Program Director. As part of the September celebration of *Fruit and Veggies — More Matters Month* the agencies hosted a Farmers Market at the Department of Public Health.

Clients and staff were invited to explore, celebrate and enjoy fresh fruits and veggies decoratively displayed in the Health Education Room. Eighty individuals participated in the event selecting items from a cornucopia of fruits and vegetables to bring home and incorporate in meals. "Pineapples, bananas and tomatoes were the highly favored items," Burns said.

Also featured was a taste test of garden wraps made with all WIC-approved food items. Feedback from the tasting was recorded on individual evaluation forms. "Many participants were surprised at how much they enjoyed the wraps, especially being a vegetarian

food item," Burns explained. "In the end, many individuals left the experience with satisfied stomachs and an enlightened view of some fruits and vegetables they strayed away from in the past."

"We're pleased to be a part of this national effort," Burns said of the September event. "The community's health is an important issue to us."



Clients and staff could select from ample quantities of fruits and vegetables laid out in a colorful display. Photo by Cardra Burns, Health

She added, "Americans are bombarded day in and day out by dozens of conflicting messages about food. Sometimes there is conflicting advice about what we should eat for optimal health. One thing that is agreed upon is how important it is to eat more fruits and vegetables."

"The scientific evidence is clear, and overwhelming," Burns explained. "People who eat a healthy diet with lots of fruits and vegetables are likely to have reduced risk of chronic diseases like strokes and, perhaps, other cardiovascular diseases, type 2 diabetes and certain types of cancer."

Burns gave another reason for the thumbs up on eating more fruits and vegetables. "They come in such colorful, varied and delicious packages."

Days of summer hardly lazy for 4-Her's

As 4-H Summer Fun activities came to a close, hundreds of youth were enriched by educational and leisure opportunities including field trips.

For example, a group of 4-H'ers accompanied by Sharon English and Annie Freeman, Cooperative Extension, toured Ft. Bragg military facilities including a parachute packing facility, the 82nd Airborne Museum, Ft Bragg's own recycling center and the Combat Training Center. The group also enjoyed lunch on base.

4-Her's on another trip accompanied by Hazel McPhatter, intern Nicole Douglas and former intern Tonisha Smith visited the NC Zoo at Asheboro.

The group explored acres of exhibits featuring wildlife from two continents while learning how the zoo works to conserve and protect wild things and wild places.



4-Her's see wild things in wild places at the NC Zoo in Asheboro.



4-Her's tour the Ft. Bragg military facility.

Success formula shared

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"The investment of one company can have a positive affect on the local economy," said Dr. Morgan. Such a move provides job opportunities that increase the level of wealth and could result in home and business ownership. "Poverty rate is diminished and the demand for goods and services goes up."

Dr. Morgan explained that much of the traditional recruitment methods that involved cheap labor and incentives have made way to a new approach, which includes paying more attention to existing companies as a source of new investment and job creation.

He added that the new approach favors the creation of highly smart, skilled and trained labor and more targeted incentives.

One new approach in recruitment a community might consider is to identify industry clusters that would make your region attractive to related industry sectors, according to Dr. Morgan.

He added there is success in fostering entrepreneurship, creating companies from scratch and regional collaboration, so a community doesn't go it alone.

"Rural communities are employing the newer approach out of necessity because the traditional approach isn't working very well," said Dr. Morgan.

News of Note

Good samaritan comes to the aid of a colleague

When Rachel Beach, Tax, was stranded on the side of the road, the victim of a reckless driver, Carlotta Rivers, Health, came to her rescue. "I was stranded by the side of the road on my way home with not one but two flattened tires after being pushed off the road by a large truck," Beach said. "I had to leave my vehicle and walk, or rather run to a house for help, which I could see in the distance." Beach said her cellphone had no service. "This lady came by, saw me, went down the road and came back to help me." Beach learned the woman was Rivers. "We tried her cellphone and still, no reception." Rivers drove Beach home. "I want to say a special thank you to Carlotta Rivers," Beach said. "She was a very nice young lady who said she was glad to help me. I am glad there are still good people out there, and I am also thankful she came by when she did."

The Hunger Games donations delivered to food bank

More than 80 canned items were collected at Scotland County Memorial Library as part of the "Mystery" Movie Matinee August 25. *The Hunger Games* was the featured film and it was very well received. Library Director Leon Gyles and staff thank the community for their support by donating non-perishable food items for admission to the movie. The food items were donated to the Church Community Services Food Bank.

Tennis Center prepares for McLean Tournament

The USTA-sanctioned Chris McLean Memorial Junior Futures Tournament is scheduled for Saturday, October 27, at the Scotland Tennis Center. Brackets will include boys and girls singles 18-10 and under. This is a great opportunity for local youth (including high school players) to get tournament experience in a relaxed, supportive setting. Contact the Tennis Center for further information (277-2592).

2012 polling information made available

Voter registration deadline by mail must be postmarked by 5 p.m. October 12 or brought to the Board of Elections Office on that date. Mail in absentee ballot application requests must be received between September 7 and October 30 or must be in the Board of Elections office by 5 p.m. Mail in absentee ballots must be received in the Board of Elections Office by 5 p.m., November 5 or they have to be postmarked by 5 p.m., November 6 and received by the Elections Office no later than 5 p.m., November 9. One Stop Early Voting starts Thursday, October 18, and runs through November 3 in the Conference Room, County Annex Building, 231 East Cronly Street, Suite 305, Laurinburg. Hours are 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. weekdays. The only weekend date for One Stop Early Voting is Saturday, November 3, from 8 a.m. to 1 p.m. Election Day is Tuesday, November 6.

the Birthday list for October

1 Elliott Brown (Health); 3 Shannon Newton (Parks and Recreation) and Kathryn McMillan (DSS); 4 Timothy Haggans (Public Works); 5 Priscilla Bryant (Health); 7 Michael Sanders (EMS); 8 Robert Bowen (Administration), James Thomas (Public Buildings), André Grant (Sheriff) and Bobby Lowery (DSS); 11 Roy Chavis (EMS) and Linda Gibson (Health); 13 William Grant (EMS), Jamie Hunt (Parks and Recreation) and Kim Brayboy (Tax); 17 Jenny Oxendine (EMS); 18 Russell Lester (EMS) and Darryl Locklear (DSS); 19 Marion Locklear (Jail); 21 Frances McLean (DSS); 22 Rachel Beach (Tax) and Alicia Krout (Parks and Recreation); 23 Cory Baldwin (EMS); 25 Debra Maske (Health); 26 Danny Sprouse (Health); 27 Charles Nichols (Administration); 28 Edna Sherrer (Health), Margaret Uncapher (Library) Vicky Locklear (Tax); 29 Thomas Milligan (Inspections); 31 Antonia Rainer (DSS).

PostScripts

Larry Locklear, Maintenance, has been recertified to perform vehicle inspections. ✂ Welcome to new employees Jerri Carlisle and Stephanie Hudson, Jail; and Joshua Medlin and Phillip Leviner, part-time with EMS. ✂ Congratulation to Alice Morgan, DSS, on the August 10 arrival of her granddaughter Miracle Zy'dai Byers. ✂ Brittany Hall, daughter of Deborah Rogers, Health, graduated from LPN school. Brittany also took her State boards and passed. ✂ Wagram Recreation Center was a Summer Feeding Program Site June 13 to August 17 to help meet nutritional needs of children. The Center served more than 800 meals. Peggy Springs, Wagram Recreation Center Assistant, was recognized as Scotland County Summer Program 2012 Site Manager of the Year.

Our condolences to ...

Tracy Lytch, DSS, on the August 17 passing of her father, William Cathey, Jr. and to Judy McMillan, Health, and Kaye McMillan, DSS, on the September 20 passing of their father-in-law James P. McMillan.

Helipad celebrated at Family Fun Day

by Roylin Hammond, EMS



Representative Garland Pierce gets comfortable in the Carolina Air Care helicopter. Photo by Tommy Hatcher, retired EMS

The first family fun day for all emergency response agencies was held at Spring Hill Fire Department September 15. The event celebrated the activation of the operation of the new helipad. Now when helicopters respond to the pick up of trauma victims, they no longer will have to land in a field or on the highway.

The Department's firemen and their families, members of other County fire departments and members of the Spring Hill community enjoyed fun, food and fellowship. Also invited were emergency services agencies in Scotland County, the fire and rescue squad, Sheriff Shep Jones and members of his department, EMS and rangers from the State Forest Service. Carolina Air Care arrived with its helicopter and crew.

Approximately 250 people enjoyed a meal provided by Murphy Brown and served by Murphy Brown employees. Those who attended were appreciative of Chief Bill Norton and the Spring Hill Fire Department for hosting a successful event.