

Life & Style

The fabric of Bertie County since 1832

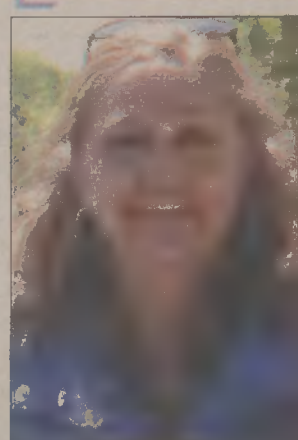
# The Roanoke's Underground Railroad

I trust you are aware of some of our rich history here along the Roanoke River. The Roanoke, as well as a host of other Northeastern North Carolina waterways, played a valuable role in the development of our region.

The communities founded along our rivers are here because the rivers were such valuable, natural resources. The Roanoke, and other regional waterways, provided a major route for trade and transportation as well as water for agriculture and community development.

The Roanoke River was a life-sustaining resource for both Native Americans and early European settlers. It also played a critical role for enslaved African Americans who sought to escape the

Roanoke Buzz



Carol Shields

bonds of slavery. The Roanoke River was used by these freedom seekers as a route both to and from our river region.

Here along the Roanoke, we are grateful to now know more about this part of our regional history thanks to the dedicated efforts of Wanda Hunt McLean. McLean, a researcher

from Elizabeth City, has documented the role that the Roanoke, and four other northeastern North Carolina sites, played in the Underground Railroad. Because of her work, since 2004 these historic sites have been recognized as part of the National Park Service's (NPS) Underground Railroad Network to Freedom Program.

McLean's research reveals that the common denominators in the majority of the escapes on the Roanoke, and other regional rivers, were that enslaved people needed and wanted to be with their families, wanted freedom, and attempted repeated escapes regardless of the consequences.

The national designation McLean sought and obtained is very

exciting for those of us who work together to learn more about, preserve and promote our regional resources. We can capitalize on these assets to foster economic value for our rural communities. We invite those who are interested to learn more about this unique regional history.

One opportunity to learn more will be offered on Saturday, April 8, in conjunction with Halifax Days in Halifax.

In addition to activities to celebrate the anniversary of the Halifax Resolves, an informative, portable Underground Railroad (UGRR) exhibit can be viewed in the visitor center at the Halifax State Historic Site.

The visitor center also offers two permanent exhibits which provide information on

slavery in Halifax and the greater Roanoke Valley. One of these permanent exhibits features George Moses Horton, a self-taught enslaved poet who was born near the Roanoke River. The other related exhibit provides information on the daily lives of many African Americans in Halifax County and includes aspects of African heritage, family life and foodways.

Visitors to Halifax can walk the Underground Railroad Trail to a river overlook and view five wayside exhibits along the way.

These interpretive panels focus on freedom seekers and Underground Railroad activity in and around Halifax, North Carolina. Other related points of interest are the Old town of Halifax UGRR

Wayside on Market Square, and the UGRR themed exhibit panels in the nearby 1838 Jail.

Another "not-to-be-missed" piece of this history can be viewed just a few miles north of Halifax in the Town of Weldon. Here visitors can view interpretive signage related to the Underground Railroad along with a scenic view of the Roanoke River.

We encourage you to learn more about the Roanoke and the rich history and cultural heritage found throughout the region. And by all means, contact Roanoke River Partners if we can be of any assistance!

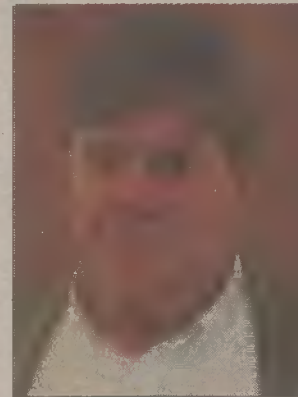
Carol Jones Shields is the Executive Director of Roanoke River Partners, Inc. Contact her at (252) 798-3920 or director@roanokeriverpartners.org.

# February keeps busy trend for Chamber

The month of February always seems to be the month that kicks off the year. I know that January is the first month, but it always feels like January is just about regrouping after the holiday season. We really get started on the new year for the Chamber with what is done in February.

We started February by moving our Coffee and Donuts program to the afternoon and by inviting all of the businesses that had been flooded to Town Hall.

Chamber Chamber



Lewis Hoggard

Mayor Jimmy Hoggard thanked everyone for their hard work in get-

ting their businesses back open. He also spoke about what the town and county were working on to address flood mitigation or prevention for the downtown area. Other leaders in the community spoke about how proud they were of the work that whole community has done, including the Town of Windsor employees.

The highlight of February is without a doubt the Black History Banquet. This year was no exception. The Black

History committee was chaired by Tiera Beale, and the vice chair was Buneva Everett. The remainder of the committee consisted of Carl Bond, Sheila Powell, Bob Melton, Andre Rowe, Willie Riddick, Vivian Saunders, Martha Carter and Lewis Hoggard.

The idea behind this year's Black History theme was to honor law enforcement in a time in which there are such contentious relations involving race and law enforcement. We chose to highlight municipal and county officers because we thought including other agencies would just be too many. We hon-

ored twelve different officers living and dead and heard from plenty more who thought others should be honored. The principal honoree was Sheriff John Holley who is the first black Sheriff of Bertie County.

The event was a success and we look forward to next year, when Buneva Everett will be the chair and Andre Rowe the Vice Chair. The theme next year is tentatively scheduled to be African American Fire Fighters in Bertie County.

The chamber hosted a Lunch & Learn at the Town House restaurant in conjunction with Bertie County Schools.

Large and small employers were invited to meet with new Superintendent Steven Hill to discuss how they can work together to improve student prospects and provide employees for these businesses. There were eighteen attendees who represented the largest employers in the county.

This month, we will have Farmers Appreciation on March 28, plus much more.

Lewis Hoggard is Executive Director of the Windsor/Bertie Chamber of Commerce. He can be reached via email at lewishoggard@gmail.com.

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Turkey Chops \$3.39 lb.	Split Ham Hocks \$6.99 ea.	5 lb. H.C. Sausage \$9.99 ea.	Bass Farm Sausage 2/\$6.00
BBQ Meal Deal 10 lb. Box of Ribs: 20 lb. Leg Quarters: 5 lb. Box Birchwood Beef Patties: 5 Packs Gwaltney Hot Dogs \$49.99		Country Style Ribs \$1.99 lb.	

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# Bertie Health Dept. sets clinic schedule

WINDSOR - The Bertie County Health Department has slated its clinic schedule for the remainder of the week.

There is a fee, based on income, for most clinics. Immunizations and General clinics are held every day, and other clinics are by appointment. They include:

Wednesday, March 8  
Bertie: General, DR PN PM

Thursday, March 9  
Bertie: General, WIC

Friday, March 10  
Bertie: General, Pediatric Primary Care AM

Monday, March 13  
Bertie: Women's Health Services All Day, General, WIC All Day

Tuesday, March 14  
Bertie: Child Health AM, General, WIC

Wednesday, March 15  
Bertie: New Prenatal PM, General, WIC All Day

Thursday, March 16  
Bertie: Adult Health AM, General, WIC

Friday, March 17  
Bertie: General

Monday, March 20  
Bertie: General, WIC All Day, DEPO PM

Tuesday, March 21  
Bertie: General, WIC

Wednesday, March 22  
Bertie: General, WIC All Day, DR PN PM

Thursday, March 23  
Bertie: General

Friday, March 24  
Bertie: General

Monday, March 27  
Bertie: Women's Health Services All Day, General

Tuesday, March 28  
Bertie: Child Health PM, General, WIC

Wednesday, March 29  
Bertie: General

Thursday, March 30  
Bertie: General

Friday, March 31  
Bertie: General

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