

# Retired School personnel meet

**WINDSOR** - The members of the Bertie County Retired School Personnel listened as they received a report of the Bertie County Board of Commissioners, District 1 representative, Ronald "Ron" Wesson, which included an update on their (commissioner's) vision and support of Bertie County's Schools at their formal November meeting.

The board of commissioners prioritized funding of the schools to fund in full the requested budget for the 2017-2018 school year.

While the school division has been working to correct some financial issues, this funding was a positive first step in assisting to resolve these issues. Commissioner Wesson applauded both boards for working together in support of Bertie County students.

Also, Bertie like many other school divisions, are challenged to hire and retain qualified school personnel to include certified teachers.

While there is no "one solution fits all" the Board of Commissioners are taking steps to address the area of housing by beginning preliminary steps to provide adequate housing for school personnel along with other county employees to attract and retain them in the county. Housing

has long been one of the challenges in attracting and retaining qualified school personnel.

The model the board of commissioners have chosen is currently being used by several of our neighboring counties.

Commissioner Wesson also expounded on several other programs in trying to meet the immediate needs of some of the lower income students in our school i.e., the backpack program that will ultimately leading to children receiving nutrition that they would otherwise go lacking.

Wesson is one of the sponsoring partners in this effort. Your support, financial and/or volunteering to this program would be greatly appreciated.

Finally, the Bertie Retired School Personnel chapter of the North Carolina Retired School Personnel is committed to the schools, students, parents and families, personnel, and administration. We partner with business and civic organizations, faith-based community, and all other stakeholders in working together for the advancement of Bertie County Public Schools.

Any retiree not involved, may contact Minnie Outlaw, President, at 252-619-0056 for membership.

## GRAND OPENING CELEBRATION



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Simply Hair recently opened on Main Street in Aulander. Attending the grand opening and ribbon cutting were (from left) Bertie County Commissioner Tammy Lee, Aulander Mayor Pro-Tempore Bobbie Parker, Marvin Garris Jr., Marie Garris (owner), Aulander Mayor Larry Drew and Aulander Commissioners Tommy Hale and Jason Tinkham.

## THANK YOU FOR YOUR SERVICE



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Aulander Mayor Larry Drew (right) thanks outgoing commissioners Ronnie Poppell and Philip Thomas for their service.

# Foundation receives grant

The North Carolina Community Foundation Disaster Relief Fund awarded a second round of grants to local affiliate foundations serving the areas hardest hit by Hurricane Matthew, according to Laura Beasley, statewide grants committee chair, statewide board member and Bertie-Hertford Community Foundation board president.

The Bertie-Hertford Community Foundation received \$10,000 from the NCCF Disaster Relief Fund, which will be directed to the following local nonprofit organizations:

- \$5,000 to NC Baptist Men for recovery work in Bertie County
- \$5,000 to NC Conference - United Methodist Church for recovery assistance

"These grants are critical to the long-term recovery of Bertie county from Hurricane

Matthew," said Beasley. "The NCCF Disaster Relief Fund is a pivotal resource to our community thanks to the generosity of many donors who gave to help eastern North Carolina."

Bertie County also received earlier grants from the NCCF Disaster Relief Fund totaling \$10,920, bringing the cumulative local total to \$20,920.

NCCF President and CEO Jennifer Tolle Whiteside said that the Foundation's support continues to focus on helping our affiliates meet long-term recovery needs in eastern North Carolina.

"These are allocations that we are confident have been granted effectively, because our affiliate boards live and work in these communities and know firsthand where these resources can make the most impact," she said.

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