



Projects underway for 2015

BY MOIRA UNDERWOOD

Before I start into the projects, I have to tell you that we finished out 2014 with a membership total of 2,003 (households: 1,902/101 businesses). Our membership goal for last year was 1,650.

The significant increase in household membership was due in part to our Home Owner Association program whereby if all the homeowners join in a subdivision, there is a discount on the membership dues. We are hoping to continue increasing our membership numbers through this program in 2015.

First up is our February 4th LGA monthly meeting whereby Cathy Allen, Tax Administrator for Northampton County and Charles Graham, Tax Assessor for Halifax County will give an overview of their county's reappraisal process and a Q and A will follow. 2015 Real Estate Reappraisal property value notices were mailed by both counties in early January. The meeting will be held at 9:30 a.m. at the Lake Gaston Baptist Church, opposite Subway on Hwy 903, 1 mile north of Eaton Ferry Bridge.

As Lake Gaston is located in both NC (Halifax, Northampton and Warren counties) and VA (Brunswick and Mecklenburg counties) the LGA is preparing county budget letters to present to each of those county governments at the beginning of their FY 2015-2016 budget preparations.

Each letter is tailored for that county. Common to all five letters is the request to fund \$116,000 for noxious weed control for the Lake Gaston Weed Control Council. Warren County's letter was presented on January 21 to the Warren County Commissioners at their first Budget Work Session for FY 2015-2016.

To achieve better Home Fire Safety Awareness the LGA is sponsoring a February promotion, with participating hardware/home improvement stores, to encourage area citizens to check/install smoke and carbon monoxide detectors. Look for our upcoming press release in your local newspapers.

Preparations are underway for the annual Five County Forum (same five counties above) to be held on March 19th from 8:45 - noon, at the Lake Gaston Lions Club. Each county will be represented by their Chairman, Commissioner/Supervisor representing Lake Gaston constituents, and their County Manager/County Administrator. All agenda topics are applicable to each county, and LGA members and the public are invited.

Please save the dates for the following LGA events: April 25 will be our 2nd Annual Community Paper Shred; May 30 will be our 5th Annual Lake Clean-Up day. Preparations for both events are underway.

(Editor's note: Moira Underwood is Lake Gaston Association's Executive Director and will be coming to you every month. She can be reached at ExecDir@lakegastonassoc.com or (252) 586-6577, or toll free 1-888-586-6577, or LGA, P.O. Box 656, Littleton, NC 27850.)