

Ceremony recognizes Wonderful Women of Hoke



The Wonderful Women of Hoke for 2012 Marvin Lynne Maxwell, (from left) Lorrie Jones, Lynette Dial (organizer and past recipient), Brenda Jacobs, Cathy Brown, Patricia Wilson, Charlotte Kelly, Marie Lowery, Betty Perkins and Barbara Buie attended the award reception Friday.

By CATHARIN SHEPARD
Staff writer

The Hoke County Public Library recognized nine "Wonderful Women" last week at the annual Wonderful Women of Hoke reception.

The program spotlights women in Hoke County who have made a difference in the community. This year the ceremony honored Cathy Brown, Barbara Buie, Brenda Jacobs, Lorrie Jones, Charlotte Kelly, Marie Lowery, Marvin Lynne Maxwell, Betty Perkins, and Patricia Wilson.

The women received a framed certificate and are featured in a Wonderful Women of Hoke display at the library entrance hall. The display will remain in place through the end of the month.

The library also recognizes other community supporters with the Meritorious Men of Hoke, Terrific Teens of Hoke and Creative Kids of Hoke as part of its Community Appreciation Project. Local organizations nominate the individuals and a committee selects the honorees.

City Council member and former Meritorious Men of Hoke awardee Robert Conoly served as the master of ceremonies for the reception. Dial's daughter and son-in-law provided musical entertainment. Family and friends of the "Wonderful Women of Hoke" attended.

For more information on the program, contact organizer Lynette Dial at the Hoke County Public Library.

Cathy Brown

Cathy Brown was born and raised in Youngstown, Ohio until her family moved to North Carolina when she was 16. She graduated from Charles E. Jordan High School in Durham, earned a bachelor's degree in psychology and human services from St. Andrews Presbyterian College and later earned a master's degree in youth development and consumer science from North Carolina State University. She married a local farmer, Cameron L. Brown. She moved to Hoke County in 1983 and joined the Raeford Woman's Club. She became involved in many community projects including the

North Carolina Turkey Festival Committee, where she served for 20 years. She is also an annual volunteer for the Raeford-Hoke Museum's Colonial Day event. She is employed with the Hoke County Cooperative Extension and serves as the 4-H extension agent. In 2005 she founded Agricultural Field Day, which takes all the county's third graders to the Edens Farm and Cotton Gin where students have the chance to pick cotton and taste foods grown on local farms. Brown was elected president of the North Carolina 4-H Association in 2011.

Barbara Buie

Barbara Buie was born and raised in Jamaica, New York and attended Upchurch Elementary School and Boylan-Haven Mather Academy and then earned a degree from Tennessee State University. She worked as a buyer for Macy's department store before relocating to Hoke County in 1977. Buie became known as "The Literacy Lady" for her work with the Hoke Reading Literacy Council, where she served for many years. Buie often said she was married to her job of promoting literacy among Hoke County's residents. She eventually became executive director of the Hoke Reading Literacy Council and worked with the council for 30 years. She retired in 2008 and was later elected to the Hoke County Board of Education, where she currently serves. Buie is secretary of the local chapter of the N.C. Federation of Negro Women's Club and also serves that club on the state level in the position of chairperson of the by-laws and constitution committee. She is secretary of the Hoke County Civic League, a member of the Hoke Reading Literacy Council Board, the Hospice Foundation Board, the Community Cemetery Committee and the First Health Advisory Committee.

Brenda Jacobs

Brenda Jacobs was born in Robeson County and grew up in Hoke County, where her family moved shortly after her birth. She attended the Hawkeye School and during her years there was head of the cheerleading squad and a member of the girls' championship (See WOMEN, page 3B)

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