

Promoting Local Economy in Jefferson: On Thursday, July 17th Garry Elliott, President of the Jefferson's Old Time Business Association was our guest on our morning talk show from 8:30—8:43am. He talked about the various town festivals that are growing in the area, and in turn, helping promote the economy. The town is creatively utilizing resources and ideas to encourage festival goers, in hopes of finding permanent business residents. Discussion focused on growth and what we can do as a community to help.

YMCA in Ashe County: Thursday, July 24th Curt Hazelbaker, President of the Northwestern NC YMCA Corporation was our guest on WKSK's Happy Time Show from 8:30—8:45am. Curt shared input and provided updates on the more than 40yr. discussion on whether Ashe County will get a YMCA, along with details on a feasibility study. Another meeting was held September 23rd with a decision expected by the end of the year.

Heart Walk Promotion: Thursday, July 30th, Chair Susan Banks and volunteer Karen Powell appeared on WKSK's morning talk show about 12 minutes to discuss the annual Heart Fund Walk. As is the case everywhere, heart disease is a major health problem. Susan and Karen discussed the efforts of the entire community, after several weeks of on-air promos/PSAs promoting the event. Focus was about what people could do at any age to ensure better health. Promotion was supported by a live remote on Saturday, August 2nd.

WCC Cosmetology School: Meriam Little and Becky Greer appeared on our morning talk show Thursday, August 7th from 8:30—8:39am. They talked about opportunities with the college, in particularly the School of Cosmetology, and how their program could really help those looking for full-time, or part-time employment. Discussion focused on personal testimony, and offered examples of flexibility their program offered.

Caring for Community Folks in Need: On Friday, August 29th, Warren Miller representing the We Care (BROC) Planning Committee was our guest on WSKS's talk show from 8:30—8:47am. Warren appears about this same time each year with heart-felt stories of people in need for winter fuel assistance. This year was no different. In fact, we were told applicants were higher than ever looking for help. Warren shared how folks in our local community can help, along with the screening process.

The aforementioned concerns are five of our pressing needs. Additionally, WSKS, each month, interviews the county manager, executive director of the Chamber of Commerce, the school superintendent, county librarian, Director of the arts council and numerous others who join us mornings from 8:30—8:57 for a morning chat about our needs and concerns. Congresswoman Virginia Foxx also is a monthly guest, and Sheriff James Williams occasionally joins us.

Graham Caddell