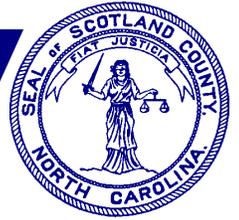


Scotland County

Monthly



MAY 2012

A newsletter for the Scotland County community

Inmate labor to benefit County

A contract with the Department of Corrections allows inmates to work in buildings and grounds for the County cutting grass, edging and weeding.

"This helps supplement the work of the three people we have who maintain the grounds in Public Buildings," said County Manager Kevin Patterson. Another inmate is assigned to Parks and Recreation to help maintain all the fields while an additional inmate is working at the landfill.

In all, seven inmates work with the County for \$1 per inmate per day, or \$200 per inmate per year.

The County picks the inmates up and drops them off at the prison at the end of the work day.

Although it's only been a month since the contract was signed the departments using inmate labor are pleased with how it's worked out so far.

"The inmates need a significant amount of training," Patterson said. "One inmate didn't know how to use a weed eater. But most new staff hired by the County needs training, maybe not to the degree the inmates do. But overall it's worked out well."

County employees who work in a supervisory position with the inmates took a half-day training held by the Department of Corrections.

Patterson said no inmates who are sex offenders are involved in the program. "This is in the agreement and the prison has a local policy not to use sex offenders in the inmate labor program."

The inmates reside in the minimum security prison at Scotland Correctional Institution. "This means the inmates are eligible for release within five years and have not had disciplinary concerns that would put them back up to medium or maximum security," Patterson explained.

Patterson views the start of the inmate labor program this late in the fiscal year as a plus because it gives the County a short trial period. "The contract we signed started May 1 and will go through June 30. We'll need a new contract for July 1."

"In my conversations with other municipalities and counties that have done this, their only concern was making sure the inmates had good supervision, but no one came back with a negative response."

Tax card information reviewed

The Commissioners will study ways to provide more information on exactly how County tax dollars are spent.

During a recent budget work session, the Commissioners reviewed the current postcard-size tax card, which breaks out the taxes as school tax, County tax and fire tax.

Commissioner John Alford took issue with the "school tax" reference, explaining that it is an appropriation and not a tax.

see Tax, page 2

EMS acquires defibrillators

Photo and text by Roylin Hammond, EMS

Scotland County EMS purchased two new LifePacs with 911 fund balance monies.

In the FY 2011-2012 proposed budget, EMS was scheduled to begin replacing its six and seven-year-old LifePac 12 Monitor/Defibrillators with two newer model LifePac 15 units.

Due to budget cuts and the desire on the part of the public to remain tax neutral, the LifePac expenditure was eliminated from the budget. But 911 came to the rescue.

The NC 911 Board allowed county governments to spend 50 percent of their 911 fund balance on public safety items as long as the purchases are made by the end of the 2012 fiscal year.

911 funds were earmarked for the proposed new 911 center, but to date there are not enough funds to complete the project. The 911 center construction has been postponed until additional funds become available.

In the meantime, the County must spend 50 percent of the 911 fund balance on public safety expenses or lose the privilege of using the funds on any item other than 911-specific equipment.

As a result Scotland County used 911 funds to purchase two new LifePac 15s for EMS, vehicles for the Sheriff and fuel for both EMS and the Sheriff's Department.

Though funds will have to be replaced in future budget years, the unique situation allowed EMS to move forward with the replacement schedule of its older, out of production equipment and provide better care for the citizens it serves.

Two more LifePac 15s are scheduled to be replaced in the FY 2012-2013 budget. They will replace equipment that is now eight years old and two years out of production.



EMT-I Kisse Phy, left, and EMT-P Kim Morris train with a new LifePac unit on EMT-P Ken Bedell, who acts as patient.

Soil and Water moves to Cronly Street Annex

The Soil and Water Conservation District offices relocated from 507 West Covington Street to the 231 East Cronly Street Annex. The number 277-2433 remains the same. The Veteran Services Office will move from its location at Legion Park on Atkinson Street to the former Soil and Water offices.

Tax card may provide additional information

continued from front page 1

Alford said the designation should be corrected or removed. "I don't call it a school tax," Alford explained. "It's just another expenditure."

County Manager Kevin Patterson said only limited information can be put on the current tax card given its size.

Patterson said a size up in the tax card to 8.5 x 11, which could be double-sided and include a return envelope, would cost an estimated \$7,000 more.

Commissioner John Cooley said when the County asks people to pay thousands in taxes they deserve more clarity on exactly where their tax dollars are going.

Chairman Bob Davis added, "Since we advocate transparency it might be worth the \$7,000 more to do that."

Commissioner Guy McCook said, "It's a small amount to pay if it helps people understand what we're doing with their money and what it pays for."

The Commissioners will receive more tax card information at the June 4 meeting.

Sweep gathers 1,400 pounds of trash

Some 40 volunteers scoured the County and picked up more than 1,400 pounds of trash as a result. The cleanup was part of the annual Spring Litter Sweep sponsored by the Chamber of Commerce Green Team.



Representing the City of Laurinburg team are, left to right, Brandi Deese, City Council Member Mary Jo Adams, Rodney Byrd and Mac McInnis.

The Chamber presented cash prizes to those who picked up the most trash.

East Laurinburg Pentecostal Holiness Church earned the first place King of the Mountain award for collecting 925 pounds of trash. The Church received a \$200 cash prize.

The City of Laurinburg earned \$100 and second place for picking up 256 pounds of trash.

In all, eight groups registered to participate in the Spring Litter Sweep.

Scotland County Solid Waste Enforcement Officer J.R. "Bobby" Horne, who is a mem-

ber of the Green Team, was pleased with the results. "Thanks to Nic's Pic Kwik for the snacks, the Recycle Center staff, WLNC Radio, the Green Team and all of the other groups that help make this a great success."

Telecommunicators and emergency responders recognized

While Board of Commissioners Chairman Bob Davis signed proclamations recognizing telecommunicators and emergency services personnel, few were on hand to witness the event. Emergency care personnel were responding to three separate 911 calls in the County, and a fourth was pending.

Emergency Management Director Roylin Hammond said, "We had an accident on Highway 79 that required two ambulances because there were five patients. The patients weren't injured badly, but they all needed to be transported."

He added, "We had one ambulance transporting a patient from a local health care facility to Scotland Memorial Hospital and another ambulance en route to Gibson to tend to someone about to give birth in a vehicle."

The week of May 8 to 14 was proclaimed Telecommunicators Week while May 20 to 26 was proclaimed Emergency Services Responders Week.

Davis said the fact that ambulances were on the road responding to emergency situations underscores the importance of the telecommunicators and emergency responders in a community. "They should be recognized and thanked not just one week out of the year but every day for the critical service they provide."

Hammond agreed. "Some days EMS responds to one or two calls and sometimes EMS answers three at a time. Three calls at a time are happening more frequently." Hammond attributed the

spike in emergency calls to responding to the needs of a growing aging population.

Four telecommunicators work 12-hour shifts. Part-time telecommunicators fill in when people are sick or when there is an

over abundance of calls. Hammond said, "They do an excellent job. The 911 equipment has become more technical. Telecommunicators monitor more and more things like the weather and several radio frequencies. They answer phones for all the calls that come in whether it's 911 or calls on the administrative line."

Hammond said for 911 calls alone, telecommunicators handle about 50 calls a day, although not all of them are emergencies. They transfer calls to specific agencies that are requested — the Sheriff's Department, Laurinburg Police Department and in some cases the Fire Department.

"On average EMS responds to about 12 calls a day. Some days we run 26 calls, some days we run four," said Hammond. "Telecommunicators handle all that. They are the vital link between the citizens and the emergency responder regardless of what

kind of emergency response needs to be there. Their job gets more complicated every day as technology changes."

Telecommunicators serve as the warning point for citizens. "If we have severe weather, they're the link that monitors the weather 24 hours a day and alerts the public and emergency responders. They have a very complicated job," explained Hammond.



Sitting left to right are Antoinette Gibson, Sheriff's Office; Chairman Bob Davis, Jane Patterson, Laurinburg Police Department. Standing left to right are, Amber Watson, EMS; Emergency Management Director Roylin Hammond and James Peguese, Sheriff's Office.

2012-2013 budget review begins

The Commissioners agreed to review a proposed FY 2012-2013 budget that would increase the tax rate from 99 cents to \$1.02 per \$100 valuation.

County Manager Kevin Patterson said the increase would eliminate a \$500,000 shortfall in the current budget and decrease an employee salary reduction from 2.5 percent to 1.25 percent, or six furlough days to three. The Commissioners will review the proposed budget throughout June until the public hearing June 25.

Refitted Army truck to help Fire Service fight woods fires

Text and photo by Roylin Hammond, EMS

The State Forest Resources Scotland County office has a new piece of fire fighting equipment, a remodeled military "Deuce and a Half" six-wheel drive Army truck that has been refitted to fight woods fires.



It is the only truck of its type used by the Forest Service in North Carolina and is a great asset to Scotland County.

It carries a 600-gallon water tank, two buster reel hose lines, is equipped with both Forest Service and

County radios and has two-feet of ground clearance.

Though an older model military vehicle, it has a new Caterpillar diesel engine and Allison automatic transmission, both installed by the Army prior to declaring the vehicle surplus.

One of the most important facts about this addition to the Forest Service's equipment is what it cost Scotland County. The local Forest Services office spent \$200 on paint for the truck.

Everything else on the truck was surplus property, available from the military to the Forest Service, and retrofitting and painting was done by the Forest Service shop in Richmond County and the Department of Corrections at no cost to the County.

County Ranger Mac McDougald is pleased that he was able to get a great resource for Scotland County at a bargain price.

EMStatistics

EMS Report for April:

911 Report Highlights:

445 EMS
359 Sheriff's Department
400 Laurinburg Police Department
54 Fire Department
1,075 hang-up calls
83 wrong numbers
219 open line calls
11 NC Highway Patrol
2,310 cellular calls
2,967 total calls to 911
Top five complaints for EMS Response

79 sick person (specific diagnosis)
38 falls/back injuries (traumatic)
33 traffic accidents (total patients)
33 traumatic injuries, specific
26 breathing problems
26 unknown problem
21 chest pain

Additional duties

5 911 address signs sold
28 after hours animal control calls
57 blood pressure checks
3 medical coverage
Compiled by Deanna Carlyle

News of Note

Auction benefits youth and their families

A charity auction sponsored by the Scotland County Adolescent Wellness Council earned more than \$680 to positively impact youth and their families in wellness activities. More than 50 items, including gifts, handbags, clothing, household goods and casserole and baked dishes were in the silent auction. Pictured right is Nutritionist Morgan Richardosn placing a bid on a Dolce & Gabbana handbag, one of the more popular auction items. Eva Locklear, DSS, won the raffle for a \$20 Harris Teeter gift certificate.



Cooperative Extension preps for summer fun

Registration for educational workshops and hands-on activities planned for Scotland County youth aged 5 to 19 will be held 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. Friday, June 1 at the Cooperative Extension office, 231 East Cronly Street. Programs are designed to give youth positive learning opportunities and focus on developing life skills. Most activities will be held in the Extension office. Prepayment is required, and there is a limit of five classes per child. Children do not have to be 4-H members to participate. Complete information on 2012 Summer Fun is available at <http://scotland.ces.ncsu.edu>.

Rotary gets election information

Elections Supervisor Dell Parker, standing, pictured right, was the featured speaker at the monthly Rotary lunch/meeting in April. Parker discussed ballot information, what to expect when entering the polling place, polling locations and deadlines for the Primary Election.



Youth participate in 4-H activity day

Cooperative Extension hosted 4-H County Activity Day, Public Speaking and Entertains recently. 24 youth, ranging in age from 5 to 18 participated in the events. Most 4-Her's who presented will move on to compete on the district level. Chancellor Byrd, pictured, discusses egg cookery.



Our condolences to ...

Shekesha McPhatter, DSS, on the passing of her grandmother, Rosa Lee Wilson; and **Raymond Moody**, Parks and Recreation, on the May 17 passing of his mother, Dalores Ingram.

Library gives away free popular title books as part of national campaign

From Kodiak, Alaska, to Key West, Florida, Laurinburg was among the 6,000 towns and cities across America where volunteers gave away half a million free books on one day — April 23.

The Scotland County Memorial Library staff picked up their books and then got out into the community to share them with stops at Piggly Wiggly, Harris Teeter and the Sneads Grove Convenience Mart.

The event was part of World Book Night U.S., a campaign to give away a half million free, specially printed books across America. Printing of the books was possible due to the generosity of authors, publishers and book manufacturing companies.

Library staff selected six titles for the book giveaway — *Friday Night Lights* by H.G. Bissinger (DaCapo), *The Hunger Games* by Suzanne Collins (Scholastic), *Blood Work* by Michael Connelly (Grand Central), *A Reliable Wife* by Robert Goolrick (Algonquin), *The Things They Carried* by Tim O'Brien (Mariner) and *Housekeeping* by Marilynne Robinson (Picador).

Library staff took to the Bookmobile to promote reading by going out and personally giving free copies of books they enjoy to new or light readers, reaching them especially in underserved places and some fun spots.

"We at the Scotland County Memorial Library are proud to be a partner in the first World Book Night in the U.S., following the impressive launch of this campaign by our bookloving colleagues in the UK and Ireland last year," said Library Director Leon Gyles.

Author Anna Quindlen, Honorary National Chairperson the U.S. campaigns, said, "What's better than a good book? A whole box of them, and the opportunity to share them with new readers."

"The idea behind World Book Night is inspired, and as a writer and a reader I'm thrilled to be part of it," Quindlen added.

Sherman Alexie, author of the World Book Night U.S. 2012 pick *The Absolutely True Diary of a Part-Time Indian*, said, "This is a celebration of the individual book and the individual reader. I am honored to take part."

Also a World Book Night U.S. author, for her book *Because of Winn-Dixie*, Kate DiCamillo said, "It makes perfect sense to me that World Book Night will take place in spring. Extending your hand to give someone a book, a story, is a gesture of hope and joy. It is a chance for all of us, givers and receivers, to break into blossom."

Eight elementary schools celebrate the importance of Earth Day

Amy Richburg and Martha Norfleet from Soil and Water spent most of their time the past several months making Earth Day presentations to 838 students in eight Scotland County elementary schools. Soil and Water staff worked with students pre-k through fifth grades during March, April and May.

Pre-k through fourth grade students made butterfly fans, ladybugs, bumblebees, honey bears, happy world puzzles, small caterpillars, sunflowers, coffee filter butterflies, conservation bear puzzles, litter bags and big caterpillars. Fifth grade students made pinwheels and played Earth Day Bingo.

Each presentation included hands-on activities as well as activity sheets, door hangers, bookmarks and pencils for the students to use as a reminder that the earth is ours to use and preserve for future generations. Students were reminded that Earth Day is celebrated April 22, but everyday is important in keeping our environment clean and beautiful.

the Birthday list for June

2 Linda Locklear (Tax); **4** Andrea Anderson (DSS); **5** Stephanie McDonald (Cooperative Extension); **7** Bryant Higgins (Public Works) and Mary Ann Reynolds (Sheriff); **11** Carolyn Allen (DSS); **12** Sharon Davis (Transportation); **14** Eva Locklear (DSS); **16** Benjamin Hunt (EMS); **17** Brooke Barrett-Quick (DSS); **18** Sheronica Smith (Sheriff) and Crystal McNair (Jail); **21** Linda Holland (Administration) and Garrett Dial (EMS); **22** Greg Icard (Administration); **23** Selena Locklear (Health); **24** Jamie Hunt (EMS) and Pamela Reed (DSS); **25** Annie Freeman (Cooperative Extension); **26** Timothy Fairley (Jail); **27** Jonathan Dunn (Sheriff), Evangela McArthur and Lisa Lundy (Health) and Laura Byrd (DSS); **28** Glenn Tucker and Inga Locklear (EMS) and Sheryl Primus (DSS); **30** Randy Wood (Cooperative Extension).

PostScripts

Welcome new employees **Mark Dombrosky**, IT; **Kelly Carpenter**, Parks and Recreation; **Lee Davis**, Shaun Dwyer and **Tonya Pigott**, Sheriff; **Janna Wegner** and **Shannon Mixon** DSS and **Zelma Edds**, temporary, Register of Deeds. ❁ Among the 2012 NAACP Image Awards honorees were **Leon Gyles**, Library, County Employee of the Year, and Chief Deputy Mitch Johnson, Sheriff, Deputy of the Year. ❁ Congratulations to **Wanda Sheppard**, Tax, on the May 3 birth of granddaughter Addison Parker Foshay and to **Ed Johnston**, County Attorney, on the May 3 birth of grandson, Hayes Merritt Smithson. ❁ Kristie Michelle Beach, daughter of **Rachel Beach**, Tax, married James Christopher Davis May 5. ❁ Gregory D. Ellerbe II, son of **Betsey Ellerbe**, Health, received the McDonalds SAT award. The award is presented to the student who scores at least 1500 total on all three parts of the SAT. Gregory scored over 1600.



Wagram Primary School fifth graders play Earth Day Bingo. Photo by Martha Norfleet, Soil and Water