



SCOTLAND COUNTY MONTHLY

APRIL 2005

A newsletter for Scotland County employees

Vicious dogs scrutinized

The Health Department will take a more aggressive stance in controlling vicious dogs that prohibit citizens from walking or riding their bikes.

The Vicious Dog Community Watch Program will be implemented this summer after it received unanimous support from the Board of Health and the Board of Commissioners.

Between 20 to 25 signs will be placed throughout the County (right) alerting citizens to the program and providing them with a contact number.

The Animal Control Officer would receive a citizen report and would visit the dog owner to ensure the animal has been vaccinated against rabies. He also would discuss the importance of maintaining the animal on the owner's property in order to prevent any human injury.

"We hope this intervention will decrease the number of bites in the County and will ensure appropriate rabies vaccination for these aggressive animals," explained Health Director Jane Murray.

The program evolved from requests by citizens and Humane Society representatives that the County become more aggressive in dealing with vicious dogs.

Murray said, "The County has seen an increase in the number of dog bites occurring in certain breeds of dogs. In 2004, 40 people were bitten by dogs, and 35 of those bites were from mixed breeds, chows, pit bulls, rottweilers and rottweiler mix dogs."

The program's effectiveness will be evaluated in June 2006 by reviewing animal control calls, visits and the number of animals vaccinated.

The Health Department already is seeing positive results from an initiative launched earlier this year to improve the number of dogs and cats receiving rabies vaccinations.

The initiative encourages veterinarians to report to the Animal Control Officer those individuals who refuse rabies vaccinations for their pets.

Murray said 223 more dogs and 139 more cats were vaccinated in February 2005 compared to February 2004.

KORDSA celebrates facility expansion

County and City officials joined KORDSA,USA, in breaking ground for the construction of a new, 216,000-square-foot facility at the company's existing site on Armstrong Road in Laurel Hill.

The expanded facility, when completed early in 2006, will add 28 new fulltime jobs to 132 existing jobs. Construction begins immediately.

The expansion represents a \$22 million investment by the company to modernize and expand its tire cord fabric twisting and weaving plant.

Tax consolidation stalled

A plan to consolidate City and County tax collection services failed to get approval from the majority of the Laurinburg City Council April 19. The Council rejected the plan in a 3 to 2 vote.

Dissenting Council members said they would like to research fees charged the City by the County.

The County Board of Commissioners approved the tax consolidation plan a week earlier during its April 13 Annual Retreat.

The consolidated tax service would have allowed for a one percent discount of current year taxes if property owners paid them prior to September 1.

REPORT VICIOUS DOGS

SCOTLAND COUNTY ANIMAL CONTROL COMMUNITY WATCH
CALL: 277-2440 Ext. 432

JRTC Color Guard attend kickoff of County Government Week



Members of the Scotland High School JRTC Color Guard kicked off County Government Week April 18 to 24 with a presentation of the Colors at the April Board of Commissioners meeting. County Government Week coverage is on page 4.

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Introductions & transitions

Welcome to those individuals who joined Scotland County departments since February 16, 2005: **Vicki Thrower**, Health; **Josephine Williams, Steven Dover** and **Teresa Smith**, temporary with the Jail; **Lilitha Graham** and **Tara Sessoms**, temporary with Social Services; **Joshua Hunt**, temporary in Public Works and **Mary Page** and **Steven Yearns**, part-time with Transportation.

Technology assists deaf-blind

Traveling from county to county, M. Polly Easley meets with groups large and small to promote programs geared toward satisfying the communication needs of deaf-blind individuals.

Easley discussed the programs during a recent Scotland County presentation.

"Deafblindness is one of the most isolating disabilities to have," said Easley. "The thought of having two disabilities — one being hard of hearing or deaf and the second being visually impaired or blind — can appear to be a devastating situation for the individual who is deaf-blind."

She added, "The most common barrier for a deaf-blind person is communicating with others."

Easley, deafblind herself, is particularly sensitive to that need and is determined to break down that barrier.

A Telecommunications Access of North Carolina (TANC) Contractor and Deaf-Blind Telecommunications Trainer, Easley educates the professional community about equipment available that allows individuals who are deaf-blind to communicate. Easley's presentations are facilitated by a sign language interpreter.

Deafblindness affects approximately 28,000 people in North Carolina although many cases go underreported. Only about 2,425 deaf-blind consumers in 100 counties receive services from the state-



M. Polly Easley demonstrates telecommunication devices.

wide Regional Resource Centers and the Division of Services for the Blind.

"People need to know about TANC services," said Easley. "Raising awareness of recently developed technologies allows deaf-blind individuals to bridge the communication gap and lead more independent lives."

Leadership class graduates

by Jan Elliott, DSS Director

Scotland County DSS graduated its second leadership class April 18. This year's graduates are James McQueen, Wendy Stanton and Myra Hill.

As part of the program, participants must complete a project and present an overview for agency staff on what they learned and project results.

Projects this year included designing a website for the agency, developing a non-profit to provide for special needs of foster children and developing a report about Medicaid, which indicates how much money comes into Scotland County and how the dollars are used.

Individuals are selected for the Leadership Program based on an application by the participant with a recommendation from the supervisor. Criteria for selection include: two years of employment with Scotland DSS, exceptional work perfor-



2005 Leadership graduates are, from left, James McQueen, Wendy Stanton and Myra Hill. DSS Chairman Clint Willis, back row, made the presentations.

mance, no disciplinary actions within past two years, prior participation in agency projects, ability to maintain current job while completing program and a commitment to remain with the agency for two years.

Applicants understand that completing the program does not assure promotion, although several members of last year's class are

now serving in a supervisory capacity. Those who completed the program acknowledge it has been beneficial in their current positions as well as in their lives outside the agency.

The program consists of class work focusing on communication, motivation, evaluation, problem solving, project management and the role of County government.

Participants must spend one day shadowing in a unit where they don't work in order to get a better understanding of other roles in the agency. They also read a book on management from a selected list and complete an approved project of their choosing. Each participant is assigned a mentor to help guide them through the yearlong journey.

By all means, do drink the water!

Whether the glass is half full or half empty, the benefit lies in drinking it. The advantages of drinking water might surprise you. For instance, one glass of water shuts down midnight hunger pangs for almost 100 percent of dieters, according to a University study. Lack of water is the number one trigger of daytime fatigue. Preliminary research indicates that eight to 10 glasses of water a day could significantly ease back and joint pain for up to 80 percent of sufferers. A mere two percent drop in body water can trigger fuzzy short-term memory, trouble with basic math and difficulty focusing on the computer screen. Drinking five glasses of water daily decreases the risk of colon cancer by 45 percent, plus it can slash the risk of breast cancer by 79 percent. Additionally, an individual is 50 percent less likely to develop bladder cancer.

EMStatistics

EMS Report for March:

Responded to 373

Medical/Trauma calls

Treated 43 motor vehicle accident patients

Provided 2 medical coverages

Administered 83 blood pressure checks

911 Report Highlights:

Received 1,879 total calls

341 EMS

352 Sheriff's Department
136 Laurinburg Police Department

74 Fire Department

541 hang-up calls

137 wrong numbers

74 open line calls

1,007 cellular calls

Weather Observations (EMS Recordings)

Temp (high) 82 on 3/30

Temp (low) 24 on 3/3

Wind (mph) 44 on 3/8

Rainfall (inches) .34 on 3/31

First Aid Tip: Minor cuts and scrapes

A small cut or scrape usually isn't a medical emergency, but proper care is important to avoid infection.

1. Stop the bleeding by applying gentle pressure with a clean cloth.
2. Clean the wound and area around it with soap and warm water.
3. Cover the wound with an adhesive bandage.

Compiled by Tommy Hatcher

Soil and Water contest student winners named

by Terry Gainey

Scotland Soil and Water Conservation District

Will Purcell, a Spring Hill Middle School, was named winner of the Scotland Soil and Water District Poster 6th Grade Contest. Purcell also won first place in the Area VII Poster Contest. The win advances Purcell to the State Level competition.

Another Spring Hill student, Arielle Lapid, was named District winner for the 8th grade speech contest. She placed second in the Area VII Speech contest.

The contests are conducted on a School, District, Area and State level with prizes given at each level. This year's topic was "The Living Soil."

Each student received a \$25 gift card for winning on the School level and a \$50 Savings Bond as the District winner. In the Area competition, there was a \$30 cash prize for the poster contest first place win and a \$35 cash prize for the second place win in the speech competition.

Scotland Soil and Water Conservation District, in cooperation with the North Carolina Soil and Water Conservation District, sponsors the contests.



Arielle Lapid



Will Purcell

Post Scripts

Condolences to **Debbie Tardif**, DSS, on the death of her mother; to **Dewey Oxendine**, Public Buildings, on the death of his mother; and to **Carol McCall**, DSS, on the death of her mother. ☘ Congratulations to **April Snead**, DSS, and her husband Chris on the March 20 birth of daughter Miller Elizabeth Snead. ☘ Congratulations to **Cathy L. Graham**, County Extension Director, and husband Vince on the April 12 birth of son Peyton Asher Graham. While Cathy is on maternity leave, **Sharon English**, Area 4-H Agent, assumes Acting Director responsibilities while **David Morrison**, Agricultural Agent, assumes finance responsibilities for the Area Cooperative Extension. ☘ Congratulations to **DSS**, recognized for 100 percent accuracy in the **Food Stamps** program. Congratulations to Catisha M. Freeman, daughter of **Jeannie M. Freeman**, DSS. Catisha is one of eight students selected to be a marshal for Richmond Community College's 2005 graduating nursing class. Catisha qualified for the honor because she has one of the highest GPA's in her class. ☘ In EMS news: **Dennis Currie**, **Wayne Mace** and **Donte Roland** will attend State Medical Assistance Team (SMAT) training in Durham to become qualified to operate a decontamination shelter. They will be part of the Duke Medical Center SMAT II team and will be able to respond to large-scale biological or medical emergencies. Their participation is part of terrorism training offered through Homeland Security funding nationwide. **Sandy Lockey** passed the exam, which qualified her as a Nationally Registered Paramedic. She joins **Dennis Currie**, **Cory Baldwin** and **Gwen Pate**, all of whom attained that level of certification at Scotland County EMS. Justin Baldwin, son of **Cory Baldwin**, won District and Conference Teen Talent in trumpet solo while representing his church. Justin will head to Oklahoma City in

July for National Competition, where he will represent the South Carolina Conference and the Laurinburg District. ☘ In Health Department news: Congratulations to the **WIC staff**, who were selected March Employees of the Month for their Nutrition Month activities. Welcome back **Betsey Ellerbe**, Social Worker and **Esther Taylor**, RN. Congratulations to **Kathie Cox**, Health Promotion Coordinator, who was recertified as a Health Education Specialist, and to **Nicki Peek**, Social Worker, who was recertified as a Car Seat Technician, and to **Brian Lowry** R.S., who successfully completed environmental health training to work in the Food and Lodging program, and to **Larry Herring**, Animal Control Officer, who was recently certified in the use of pepper spray and the bite stick. We welcome **Miriam Bounds** RN to the agency. Miriam has years of home health experience and will be an asset to the organization. ☘ 8th grader, Michael Turner, grandson of **Gracie Rettig**, Transportation, was one of several Sycamore Lane student participants at the State Technology Students Association (TSA) competition in Greensboro in March. Michael competed in the categories Inventions and Innovations and Digital Photography and was awarded first place in Digital Photography. He is eligible to advance to the national competition in Chicago. Last year Michael advanced to the national competition in Digital Photography and placed in the top 10 in Nashville. ☘ Best of luck to **Steve Edge** on his future endeavors.

It doesn't pay to litter

In the 12 months since approval of the revised Solid Waste Enforcement Plan 797 cases were processed, which resulted in 568 violations and 814 tons of waste being brought to the landfill that otherwise would be littering the community. According to County Engineer Jim Blackwell, "The entire cleanup was completed without the spending of any public funds." Additionally the April 2 "Free Day" at proved to be one of the most active days of the year with 240 tons of waste, or 91 truckloads, hauled to the recycling sites. Free Day gives residents the opportunity to do some spring-cleaning at the County's expense.

Youth flock to baseball signups

835 youth throughout the County registered for the Parks and Recreation 2005 baseball program. There are 50 youth on the wait list.

Master Plan input summarized

As Parks and Recreation staff and representatives made their way around the County presenting the 25-year Master Plan to citizens at town hall meetings, the group also received input from the public on their ideal Parks and Recreation offerings. According to Shannon Newton, Parks

and Recreation Director, most citizens agreed that it was important to maintain the existing facilities and to build more picnic shelters.

Newsletters online

If you missed recent issues of the County newsletter, they're available online as PDF files. From the County's website www.scotlandcounty.org, click "newsletters" and select the month you wish to read.

Scotland County Monthly is published by the County Manager's Office to provide news and information to employees.

Comments, suggestions and story ideas are welcome. Contact 277-3191 or akurtzman@scotlandcounty.org.



Adults take tour of County services

A handful of adults took a closer look at what it takes to operate County Government. The tour was part of County Government Week. They visited the municipal fuel station, landfill, a recycle center, the splash pad (pictured right), Health, DSS, EMS (pictured left), and the Public Buildings maintenance shop. The half-day program concluded with a lunch hosted by the Board of Commissioners. The adult participants said they were grateful for the opportunity to learn more about County government. "I had many questions today," said William Bullard. "The more you get to know about a community, the more you know what to ask."

Students learn about local government

After spending a half day shadowing department heads and touring County facilities, Scotland High School students shared what they learned with Chairman J.D. Willis.

The biggest lesson — don't do anything that will land you in jail. For the 14 students, touring the jail was an eye-opener.

After a brief introduction by Chairman Willis on the workings of County government, the students shared some of their thoughts.

Here is a sampling of what they learned — Building a splash pad is expensive.

Conserving natural resources is important.

The GIS and other computer software features help government operate efficiently.

Social Services does more than distribute Food Stamps.

Joining the students for lunch was Commissioner Clarence McPhatter, who explained why he returned to Scotland County after college graduation.

"I had a lot to offer, and I wanted to give back to my community," he said. "Be serious about life, and set an example for others."

the Happy Birthday list for May

2 James McQueen (DSS); **3** Barbara Lucas (Cooperative Extension) and Kathy Medlin (Jail); **4** Teresa Vick and Tosha McQueen (DSS); **5** Rhonda Saffel (Tax); **7** LaCarrol Rhone (DSS); **11** Nancy Bostick (Administration); **12** Crystal Norton (Register of Deeds); **14** Dontae Roland (EMS); **15** Tracey Ansley (Sheriff); **17** Melanie Clark (EMS) and Dewey Oxendine (Public Buildings); **18** Dalores Ingram (Elections Board), Rebecca Griffin (DSS) and Clarence McPhatter II (Commissioner); **19** Nicole Shipman (EMS); **20** Billie Phillips (Tax) and Tony Smith (Sheriff); **21** Gregory Tuck (Jail); **23** Lisa McPhatter and Liquita Crosland (DSS); **24** Michelle Campbell (DSS) and Pearlene Leggett (Health); **25** Gail Jackson (Sheriff); **26** Jennifer Taylor (Health); **27** Tim Reynolds (Public Buildings); **29** Dennis Currie (EMS) and Myra Hill (DSS); **30** Terry Gainey (Soil and Water); **31** Wayne Mace (EMS).



Students share what they learned about County Government with Chairman J.D. Willis