

Scotland County

Monthly



APRIL 2009

A newsletter for Scotland County employees

Fuel pellet manufacturer plans to renovate Eaton plant, create 98 jobs

Nature's Earth Pellet will bring its manufacturing facility to Scotland County with plans to locate in the vacant Eaton building.

Nature's Earth will employ 45 people in the first two years and up to 98 in the third year of operation.

Renovation for the Eaton building will start immediately with production beginning in early August.

The company produces animal litter, animal bedding and fuel pellets made from recycled wood waste — wood shavings and sawdust that are formed into pellets used for cat litter and wood stove fuel.

Headquartered in West Palm Beach, FL, the company currently operates a facility in Alabama.

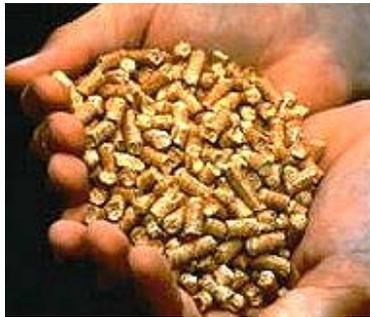
"We are very happy to have Nature's Earth Pellet locate in Scotland County," said Chairman J.D. Willis. "We need every job we can get, and this will be a tremendous help to offset the recent job losses."

"We continue to work aggressively to attract more jobs to the area," Willis added.

Economic Developer Greg Icard said, "We all understand the importance of jobs in the community and we are excited about the opportunity this new investment brings to our citizens."

Icard credited the work of many partners in successfully attracting Nature's Earth Pellet to Scotland County. "North Carolina's Southeast Partnership referred Nature's Earth to Scotland County and awarded a \$25,000 grant that helped make the deal a success."

He added, "Other partners that helped make this announcement possible are the State Department of Commerce, North Carolina Rural Economic Development Center and Richmond Community College."



Pellet fuel is a biomass product made of renewable substances, generally recycled wood waste.

Address confidentiality helps protect victims

Cooperative Extension and Domestic Violence and Rape Crisis Center of Scotland County will collaborate to offer a workshop on the North Carolina Address Confidentiality Program.

"A representative from the North Carolina Attorney General's Office attended our recent Shred-It Event geared at educating citizens on the importance of identity theft prevention," said Sharon English, Family and Consumer Science Agent with Scotland County Cooperative Extension. "It was during this event that I learned of additional programs offered through the Attorney General's office that could benefit our citizens and their families."

The program will be held 10 a.m. to 11 a.m. Tuesday, May 26, at the Cooperative Extension office, 231 East Cronly Street.

"This program provides the opportunity to help protect victims of violence and abuse and allows them to start over, away from their abuser," explained Gerry Johnson, Executive Director, Scotland County Domestic Violence and Rape Crisis Center.

Through the Address Confidentiality Program, people who escape domestic violence, sexual assault or stalking can choose to receive first-class mail at an address designated by the Attorney General's office.

In order to participate, a victim must relocate or be in the process of relocating to a new address and must sign a statement that they fear for their safety or the safety of their children.

Participants apply to the Address Confidentiality Program at community-based victim assistance agencies across the State. Counselors would help decide whether the Address Confidentiality Program should become a part of the survivor's overall safety plan.

Participants in the program receive mail at a secure substitute address. Their mail is then forwarded to their confidential home address. The substitute address can also be used when a participant registers to vote, obtains a driver license or signs up for public utilities.

All county agencies are encouraged to attend. "Through our work in the community we may encounter a citizen or client that would benefit from this service," English said.

Contact Cooperative Extension at 277-2422 to register.

Seniors network at Open House

Citizens age 50 and older became acquainted with Scotland Place and the senior programs, friendships and activities it offers. More than 50 people attended the April 22 Open House.

First-time visitors met representatives of social clubs and also learned of the variety of support services available.

Booths set up to welcome visitors and provide information included the Paint Club, Spirit of Youth, Bingo, Grandparents Support Group, Senior Games, Crochet, Growing Friendships, Exercise Classes, AARP, the Young at Heart, SHIP and the Council of Governments Area Agency on Aging.



Library secures its resources, increases efficiency at check out

Scotland Memorial Library closed for four days recently so staff could install new security gates and place bar codes in the book collection.

The books are being processed to complement a new tattler that, when enabled or disabled, would cause the security gate to either trip the alarm or not trip the alarm when books pass through the gate.

"We're putting in a security mark similar to WalMart or Belk's or any place else where you might go in and buy something," explained Library Director Leon Gyles.

Staff realized installation of the security asset system would not be completely accomplished during the four days the Library was closed. There are about 62,000 records in the main Library and in Wagram. .

"The goal during the closure was to get the young adult, juvenile fiction and nonfiction and large print collection and the new books that go out frequently converted to the new security system," said Gyles. "We're working on half of the Library."

Gyles said security system installation is a plus in other ways. "The security process will help staff get a better idea of the number of records actually housed in the Library."

"For instance, records might show that we have three copies of some books, but we haven't been able to find all three copies," Gyles explained. "Staff must physically touch every book in the collection, scan the bar code, activate an electronic chip and put it on the bookshelf."

Project completion depends upon how much is accomplished while the Library is closed and how much can be accomplished while the Library is opened.

"We will only have two terminals to work on rather than four when the Library is opened" said Gyles. "It cuts in half what can actually be done."

Once the security system is installed, Gyles expects to see more efficiency. Once a library card is presented, books are scanned for a receipt.

"Staff do not have to open the books, stamp cards or add pockets for the cards," Gyles explained. "Significant time will be saved checking books out."

Book lovers support sale

Extended book sale hours helped the Library raise twice what it did at its November book sale event. The Library raised \$621 at its April 18 sale compared to \$285 in November.

Library Director Leon Gyles said prices this time were 50 cents for paperbacks and \$1 for hardcovers. In November, the Library sold books for 25 cents and 50 cents for paperbacks and hardcovers, respectively.

Specialty books had a slightly higher price tag while book collections had bargain price stickers for quick sale.

Money raised from both book sales will be set aside for a Friends of the Library. Gyles said he would receive some training before a Friends of the Library could be organized.

Gyles said frequency of book sales depend on donations from the community. Donations can be made during Library operating hours or after hours by placing donations in the book drop.

DSS revamps its Variable Work Schedule

by Joe Knott, DSS

With the unpredictability of gas prices and nearly half the staff living more than 10 miles from DSS, the way the agency was doing business had to change.

DSS employees have worked a Variable Work Schedule (VWS) for more than 12 years now. The VWS allows staff who want to work an extra hour for four days every other week to have a half day off on Friday. Each unit split into two teams. Teams would alternate every other week.

Since it began, the schedule has worked extremely well.

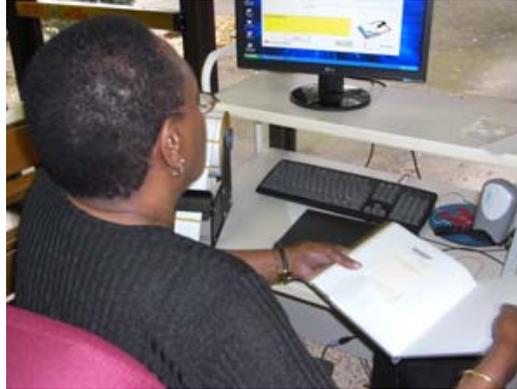
In July 2008, supervisors and program managers presented a revamped VWS with the same concept. Now workers can work four 10- hour days and have every other Friday off.

As with the previous plan, it is strictly voluntary and each supervisor must approve each worker's schedule to ensure that the agency continued to operate with the same high level of service that the community has always enjoyed.

The plan was presented to the DSS Board in July. The Board agreed to allow the agency to pilot the schedule for three months. The modified VWS was determined to be successful and continues today.

Since implementing the modified plan, morale has increased. Staff can work on records before and after the agency closes without interruption.

The agency's hours of operation remain the same, 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. Monday to Friday.



Louise Williams scans security codes.

Officials take refresher course on all hazards preparedness



Local Officials from Richmond, Moore and Scotland Counties attended a Senior Officials Workshop for All Hazards Preparedness at Richmond Community College's Cole Auditorium April 15.

The six-hour workshop was conducted by staff from Texas A&M University and was funded by the Department of Homeland Security.

Officials from both county and city governments participated and were reminded of their respective roles and responsibilities during a disaster situation. **Text and photo by Roylin Hammond, EMS**

EMS puts new QRV in service



A new Quick Response Vehicle (QRV) is now in service at EMS. The new truck is a 2007 model 2500 series Chevrolet diesel crew cab pickup with a utility bed that will allow the supervisor to carry additional equipment that may be used in multi-victim accidents. The vehicle will be used by the shift supervisors to answer third calls, respond to traffic accidents and assist the two transport ambulance crews with more serious medical responses. This new vehicle replaces a 1997 Ford Crown Victoria. Text and photo by Roylin Hammond, EMS

Post Scripts

Congratulations to **Robert Bowen**, Administration, on the March 27 birth of granddaughter Leila Skye Carter. Leila is Bowen's third grandchild. ❀ **Tosha McQueen**, DSS, is proud of her son Brandon McRae. A freshman at Winston Salem State University, Brandon made Dean's List and was recognized at an Honors Convocation Ceremony for his achievement. ❀ Celebrating employment anniversaries at EMS are **Randy McArthur**, 15 years; **Dontae Roland**, five years; **Nikki Phy** and **John Storey**, two years; and **Chad Branham** and **Scott Lester**, one year. ❀ News items from the Health Department are numerous: **Tina Ellis** and **Phyllis Clark** presented Back To Sleep guidelines and Shaken Baby Syndrome information to law enforcement April 16 and 21. **Kathie Cox** and **Barbara Mack** participated in a Health Fair sponsored by Springhill Missionary Baptist Church March 28. They also participated in a Youth summit at Nazareth Missionary Baptist Church that same day. **Carlotta Rivers**, Parenting Instructor, did a presentation for Smart Start LEAP group. **Ron Sapp**, **Tina Clark**, **Barbara Mack**

Patient preparation for transport by air taught

Scotland County EMS, along with members of the Scotland County Rescue Squad, the Laurinburg Fire Department, and Richmond County EMS and Communications attended a class on patient packaging for helicopter transport March 25.

The class was taught by Joe Crowder with UNC Air Care, the helicopter transport division of UNC Health Care.

The training concluded with Tar Heel I, the Air Care service's helicopter based in Fayetteville at Cape Fear Valley Hospital, landing behind the DSS building.

This gave all participants opportunity to become familiar with the craft and its capabilities.

EMS Director Roylin Hammond said, "Much thanks go to Sandy Lockey (EMS) for arranging the training with Carolina Air Care, who we expect to see much more frequently in Scotland County."



Tar Heel I from Fayetteville lands behind the DSS building. Photo by Roylin Hammond

and **Kitty Johnson** attended an Isolation and Quarantine Exercise with the Judicial System. The exercise was provided by the Preparedness and Response Surveillance Team 3. **Tina Ellis** participated in Fun Day sponsored by DSS April 4 where she distributed Back To Sleep and Shaken Baby information. **Clinical staff** have taken advantage of several "webinars" available for training (Pharmacology Update I & II; Abnormal Pap Smears; and upcoming Cultural Competency for Clinicians). Clinical staff also attended a 1st annual Maternal Health update. ❀ Cooperative Extension Livestock Agent **Randy Wood** and his wife, Rebecca, celebrated the March 25 birth of their first child, Ashton Elizabeth Wood.

Our condolences to **Crystal Norton**, Register of Deeds, on the death of her sister, Carol Shelton. Ms. Shelton also is sister-in-law to **Kim Brayboy**, Tax. Our sympathies to **Beverly Wranosky**, DSS, on the April 17 death of her sister and to **Betsey Ellerbe**, Health, on the April 21 death of her mother, Lula Belle McLaurin.

Introductions & transitions

Welcome to those individuals who joined Scotland County departments since January 16, 2008: **Jonathan**

Smith, Jail, and **Martha Norfleet**, Soil and Water Conservation.

2 James McQueen III (DSS); **3** Kathy Medlin (Sheriff); **4** Teresa Vick and **Tosha McQueen** (DSS); **5** Rhonda Saffel (Tax); **9** James E. McQueen (Transportation); **10** Mike McGirt (Public Buildings); **11** Trina Locklear (DSS) and Nancy Bostick (Administration); **12** Crystal Norton (Register of Deeds); **14** Dontae Roland (EMS); **15** Roxanne Douglas (DSS), Tracey Ansley (Sheriff), Jonathan Taylor (EMS) and Kenneth Bethea (Jail); **17** Scott Jacobs (Jail); **18** Clarence McPhatter (Commissioner) and Rebecca Griffin (DSS); **19** Leora Davis (Library), Sarah Craig (DSS) and Keith Faulk (Public Buildings); **20** Billie Jo Phillips (Tax) and Tony Smith (Sheriff); **21** Gregory Tuck (Jail) and Bob Davis (Commissioner); **24** Michelle Campbell (DSS) and Pearlene Leggett (Health); **25** Gail Jackson (Sheriff); **26** Jennifer Taylor (Health); **29** Dennis Currie (EMS) and Myra Hill (DSS); **31** Wayne Mace (EMS).

the Birthday list for May

Students show appreciation for Earth Day presentation

Amy Richburg and Martha Norfleet promote Earth Day in a big way.

The two-person Soil and Water Conservation staff in the past few months visited 108 Pre-K through fifth grade classes in order to deliver Earth Day presentations to more than 2,000 children.

The Wagram Primary third grade classes were so thrilled with the presentation they sent thank-you notes to Richburg and Norfleet.

Richburg and Norfleet created a scrapbook for the thank-you notes. The scrapbook is available for viewing at the Soil and Water Conservation office at 507 West Covington Street.

Here are samples of the letters they received.

Dear Ms. Richburg,

Thank you for helping us make Mother Earth. We are really glad we have her. I use my bookmark now and take it everywhere. I really liked your shirt! It was so cute! Those projects were the best I've ever done. Thank you!!!! P.S. I've done a lot of projects.

Dear Ms. Norfleet,

Thank you for helping us make litter bags. They remind me never to litter. I have already hung my door hanger to remind people to care for Earth and not trash it. I've colored it too! Thank you for reminding us to save the planet.

Thank you for teaching me something new. Thank you for teaching me what you do. Mother Earth is the one we live on. Treat it with respect so we can do something new. Plant trees so we can have clean air. Pick up trash so you don't have a dump by your house. It won't be small like a mouse. It will be big like a house. Keep it clean so it will stay.

Dear Ms. Richburg and Ms. Norfleet,

Thank you for coming to Wagram Primary School and teaching us about Earth Day. The project we did was fun and nice. Thank you for giving us stickers and helping us make Mother Earth. I really enjoyed your visit. I thank you for the bookmark and door hanger. I hope you come back one day to teach more about Earth Day.



A Pate Gardener second grade class was visited by Amy Richburg, left, and Martha Norfleet for an Earth Day presentation.



Meth is often "cooked" in very crude laboratories like this one. Cooking meth is highly dangerous and toxic. Photo source: USDOJ.gov

Meth lab dangers explored

Approximately 45 Firemen, Rescue Squad, EMS, DSS and Law Enforcement personnel from Scotland County attended a three-hour Meth Lab Awareness class taught by a Special Agent Kelly Johnson from the State Bureau of Investigation.

Sponsored by Brent Barbee, Director of Emergency Services Education with Richmond Community College, the April 6 class was taught in the auditorium at the Laurel Hill Community Center.

A similar class was also taught April 23 at Cole Auditorium for emergency response personnel in Richmond County.



A happy 'gator's tale is told

During a recent Emergency Management Conference held at the coast, EMS Director Roylin Hammond had a reptile visitor just outside his room at Sea Trail Resort and Golf Course. The six-foot alligator lived in and around the water hazard on the tee of the 18th hole of one of the golf courses at the resort. The young alligator liked to lie in the sun and watch the golfers go by or float around in the water and play with the turtles (pictured above middle). None of the golfers, the alligator or turtles seemed remotely concerned about the company of the others. Photos and text by Roylin Hammond.

EM Statistics

EMS Report for March:

Responded to 412 Medical/Trauma calls

Treated 49 total traffic accident patients

Administered 118 wellness/blood pressure checks

Sold 9 blue address signs

911 Report Highlights:

395 EMS

345 Sheriff's Department

297 Laurinburg Police Department

54 Fire Department

742 hang-up calls

78 wrong numbers

39 open line calls

1,545 cellular calls

3,798 total calls to 911

Top five complaints for EMS

Response

65 breathing problems

60 sick person (specific diagnosis)

49 traffic accidents

36 falls/back injuries (traumatic)

34 chest pain

Weather Observations

(EMS Recordings)

Temp (high) 85 on 3/9, 11

Temp (low) 20 on 3/3, 4

Wind (mph) 30 on 3/29

Rainfall (inches) 1.02 on 3/28

Compiled by Tommy Hatcher