

# Scotland County

## Monthly



AUGUST 2006

A newsletter for Scotland County employees

## Edge wins Ketner Award

Mike Edge was among 10 individuals to win a 2005/2006 Ketner Employee Productivity Award. Edge, EMS Operations Officer, will receive \$1,000 for implementing electronic billing for Medicare/Medicaid.

Ralph Ketner, co-founder of Food Lion, Inc., donates \$10,000 each year to reward outstanding county employees for their successful productivity initiatives.

Edge said electronic filing of bills cuts the wait period for a Medicare/Medicaid response from 14 days to one day. "If we got a denial, we could rebill the next day, which would speed receipt of payments."

Edge said revenue from Medicare/Medicaid was around \$200,000 this past year. "It speeds up the way we do things. We can bill it out faster, and it allows us to collect quicker than before," Edge explained.

This is the 15th year the North Carolina Association of County Commissioners (NCACC) organized the Ketner program, which has attracted 1,226 project applications representing more than \$95 million in savings to counties statewide.

Two review committees made up of commissioners, managers, county staff and School of Government representatives considered applications from managerial staff and from those submitted by line staff.

Other employees who submitted the best productivity enhancements represented Cumberland, Davidson, Durham, Gaston, Mecklenburg, New Hanover, Orange and Pitt counties.

Each employee or team of employees will receive \$1,000 and a certificate of recognition at the General Session of the Association's Annual Conference to be held in Forsyth County in September.

## Waste Management tapped for landfill contract talks

The Board of Commissioners, in a four to one vote during the August regular meeting, agreed to conduct landfill contract negotiations with Waste Management.

Vice Chair Gholston voted against the negotiations. Commissioners Joyce McDow and Clarence McPhatter were absent from the meeting.

A second company, Republic, also had expressed interest in contract negotiations involving the development and operation of a regional landfill in the County.

The Commissioners in July exercised a one-year purchase option from Jordan Timber Company on a 2,000-acre tract of land in the northwest portion of the County.

Vice Chair Gholston and Commissioner McPhatter voted against the purchase option.

## New Health Director named

Ronnie Sapp has been named Health Director. September 18 is his official start date.

Sapp previously served as Warren County Health Director. During his more than 30 years in public health and health education Sapp served as a regional immunization consultant for the State Department of Health and Human Services, was community health educator with the Guilford County Department of Public Health and a public health educator with Alamance County Health Department.

He earned a M.S.A. in Health Services Administration from Central Michigan University and a B.S. in Health Education from UNC-Greensboro.

## Covington Street move planned

As part of a plan to create additional space in the main Courthouse, the County is considering moving Administration, Finance, IT, Personnel, Building Inspections, Engineering and Tax Mapping and Appraisal offices to the Covington Street Building within 60 to 90 days.



**Concrete replaces the brick walkways at Covington Street.**

For the time being, Elections, Cooperative Extension and Soil and Water Conservation will stay in the Annex Building along with Courthouse staff.

It is yet to be determined who from the Courthouse will move into the Annex. Those options are still being discussed.

Initial plans call for getting the computer and telephone systems to Covington Street. Some modifications to offices will be completed as well.

Once the the move from the Annex is complete, new IT lines will be run to the building for the State-related departments that move in.

"We would like to have everyone who has to move, relocated by January 1," said County Manager John Crumpton. "The space freed in the Courthouse will be used by judges and probation, which currently rents space behind the Jail."

He added, "Administration has been moved to several locations over the years, and Covington Street will provide Administration with a location that will be permanent."

"With RCC—Scotland Campus moving to the old hospital site, there is opportunity for the College and the County to share resources. This area of Laurinburg will be the center of much activity," said Crumpton.

The Covington Street building was last occupied by Southeastern Mental Health until all of its operations located to Lumberton.

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## EMStatistics

### EMS Report for July:

**Responded to** 430 Medical/Trauma calls

**Treated** 40 motor vehicle accident patients

**Administered** 92 wellness/blood pressure checks

**Sold** 12 blue address signs

### 911 Report Highlights:

**396** EMS

**284** Sheriff's Department

**233** Laurinburg Police Department

**63** Fire Department

**901** hang-up calls

**134** wrong numbers

**79** open line calls

**1,499** cellular calls

**2,364** total calls to 911

### Top five complaints for EMS Response

**58** sick persons (specific diagnosis)

**54** breathing problems

**45** chest pain

**40** traffic accidents

**34** fall/back injuries

### Weather Observations (EMS Recordings)

**Temp (high)** 99 on 7/28

**Temp (low)** 60 on 7/9

**Wind (mph)** 18 on 7/15

**Rainfall (inches)** .77 on 7/6

*Compiled by Tommy Hatcher*

## EMS gets flag



**Tracie Patterson, center, and Ronnie Lynne Tunstall, right, accepted a flag on behalf of EMS from a Woodmen of the World representative. The flag will fly at the EMS building. The WOW organization has a long history of providing flags at no cost to organizations.**

## Participants get healthy rewards

Rewards were available to employees who participated in this year's Health Fair.

Everyone received a t-shirt and a water bottle. Employee participants also were eligible to receive additional prizes with drawings held at the end of each day of the three-day event.

The prize and gift incentives helped the County achieve its goal of 75 percent participation among the more than 300 employees.

Sponsored by FirstCarolinaCare and funded by an end-of-the-year refund on profits given back to FCC customers, the health plan provider conducted blood sugar, trygliceride, cholesterol and bone density screenings. Employees received screening results immediately.

Prizes from the drawing included gift certificates, assorted sporting equipment and mountain bikes. An iPod was the grand prize drawn from a pool of all participant names.

Employees spoke with visiting vendors about health care spending accounts, group dental insurance, 401K, the Employee Assistance Program and risk management/safety issues.



**Prizes included sports equipment and mountain bikes with helmets. Tina Oxendine, right, takes a bone density test offered to female employees.**

## the Birthday list for September

**1** Felisa Lockey (DSS); **2** Keith Hatcher (EMS) and Cathy Graham (Cooperative Extension); **3** Sarah McQueen (DSS); **5** Dr. John Slaughter (Health Board), Ricky Taylor (Jail) and Tommy Butler (Sheriff); **6** Anita Nelson (DSS) and Terri Tacquard (EMS); **8** Debra Kersey (Health) and Mandi Patterson (Jail); **10** Jeannie Freeman (DSS) and Billy Campbell (Sheriff); **11** Deborah Rogers (Health); **12** JC Dunn (Public Buildings) and Dan Skamperle (Sheriff); **14** Carlotta Rivers (Health) and Tammy Swallow (Parks and Recreation); **16** Nancy Hughes (Tax); **17** Nathan Monroe (Health Board) and Jessica Grooms (Splash Pad); **18** Susan Butler (Administration); **19** Pierre Lee (EMS); **25** Winnie Robinson (Health); **26** Buddy Blalock and Joshua Byrd (Sheriff); **27** Timothy Hunt (EMS) and Jody Smith (Cooperative Extension); **28** Doris Smart (Inspections); **29** Lynda McMillan (Health).

## RCC education facility plans move forward

Demolition of the old hospital, vacant since 1983, will conclude Phase I of a \$3.4 million three-phase project.

Demolition will pave the way for construction of a Richmond Community College multi-use education facility pending availability of funds.

Phase I — purchase and demolition — accounted for \$800,000 of the project total. It involved acquisition of the site for \$100,000, demolition of the building, removal of hazardous material, disposal of material and clearing and preparing the site for new construction.

A private sector fundraising campaign and an EPA grant for brownfields redevelopment funded Phase I of the project.

For their part, the Board of Commissioners approved a resolution in 2004 to waive the construction demolition tipping fees at the landfill for the old hospital.

Phase II at \$2.4 million will include design and construction of a 15,000-square-foot multi-use facility for use in industrial training, curriculum instruction and community/cultural activities. Phase III at \$200,000 will involve community and economic development, which capitalizes on the demand for cross-cultural training and education.



**Architectural rendering of the RCC multi-use education facility to be constructed on the old hospital site.**

## Message from the Manager

While at the North Carolina Association of County Commissioners I had the pleasure of working with Breeden Blackwell, who was the President of the Association during my employment.

He also was Chairman of the Cumberland County Commissioners and still serves as a Commissioner on their Board.

Mr. Blackwell is a firm believer in sharing information and asking for help.

A favorite quote of his is this: "We can't live in our cocoon. If we are to continuously improve our communities, we have to get out of our communities and see what others are doing and meet with those people who can help our community."

During his year as Association president I heard him say that often — almost every time he made a speech.

September will be my month to get out of our community, share ideas, sell our community and ask for help. September will be the busiest month in my tenure with the County.

I will attend the Association of County Commissioners annual conference in Winston-Salem during the first week of September.

Improving communications and working relationship with State government will be the main focus of this year's conference.

The following week I will attend the Fort McPherson Relocation Fair in Atlanta with the BRAC Regional Task Force.

Chamber President Jim Frank Henderson, Laurinburg City Manager Craig Honeycutt and I will man a booth where military personnel, civilian personnel and on-base contractors will seek information on communities near Fort Bragg and Camp Mackall.

This is a perfect opportunity to sell Scotland County to individuals and businesses who will locate to our area over the next two years as part of the base realignment.

I will be in Washington, D.C. with the Chamber of Commerce September 25 and 26 seeking help from the federal government on job creation and on the EDA grant for construction of the RCC campus at the Old Hospital site.

A public forum on the I-74 corridor from Laurel Hill to Hamlet will be held September 28.

And in between all the meetings and the out-of-town travel, County officials plan to schedule an Economic Summit in an effort to get the entire community involved in business development countywide.

Growth in our community can come via help from people outside our community. So all the above-mentioned events are ways to get things moving in a positive direction.

Recently I visited the Moore County Chamber of Commerce to get information on how they make their community grow. I was told that everyone in the community is involved in some type of growth activity.

The number one way the Moore County Chamber gets new businesses (not industry) to locate there is by asking people they meet to locate there.

Anyone who knows someone who owns or operates a business of any size, and who asks them to consider locating their business or home to our area, contributes to growing our community.

I will get the chance to do this a lot in September. You can help by asking people **you know** to come to our area and make Scotland County their home for business and/or family.



**John A. Crumpton**

## Election schedule posted

**Monday, September 18, 2006**

First day to request absentee ballots by mail.

**Friday, October 13, 2006**

Voter registration deadline for November 7 General Election. Forms must be postmarked or delivered in person by 5 p.m. Last day to change party affiliation before General Election.

**Wednesday, October 18, 2006**

Deadline for submitting originals of faxed voter registration forms in order to vote in General Election.

**Thursday, October 19, 2006**

One-stop absentee voting begins for General Election

**Tuesday, October 31, 2006**

Last day to request absentee ballots in writing (exception due to sickness or disability).

**Thursday, November 2, 2006**

Observer lists due to county boards of election.

**Saturday, November 4, 2006**

One-stop voting ends.

**Monday, November 6, 2006**

Mailed absentee ballots must be received by 5 p.m. in the Board of Elections Office.

**Tuesday, November 7, 2006**

General Election Day.

**Friday, November 17, 2006**

Canvass Day for county board of elections.

## Introductions & transitions

Welcome to those individuals who joined Scotland County departments since June 16, 2006: **Blondell "Dell" Parker**, Elections; **Tammy Swallow**, Parks and Recreation; **Mitchell Locklear**, Public Buildings; **Teresa Eddins**, Register of Deeds; **Robin Belerain**, Social Services. **Brandon Butler**, **Brandon Scott**, **Matthew Locklear** and **Melissa Nelson** are part-time at EMS.

## Leadership class pays a visit



**County Manager John Crumpton, third from right, discussed the County's responsibilities, its challenges and achievements during a talk session with the 2006 Leadership Scotland class. Personnel Director Susan Butler, left, is a member of the class.**

**Board of Commissioners meet 7 p.m. September 11**

## Youth enjoy workshops

Scotland County 4-H and 4-H EFNEP (Expanded Food and Nutrition Education Program) offered several workshops throughout the summer months providing youth with opportunities to learn new skills and incorporate nutrition and fitness into their lives.

Hazel McPhatter, 4-H EFNEP Program Assistant, offered workshops on Fitness Is Fun and International Cooking to youth ages 5 to 19.



**Top, Kelly Stokes, left, and Meg Crumpton decorate cakes; center, Will Tostevin gets tips on cooking; and bottom, knitting instructor Peggy Jones with Noelle Cox, left, and Gwendia Rogers.**

Youth were taught how to select healthy foods and how to prepare nutritious snacks. In addition, youth learned how to enjoy exercise through Tae-Bo and dance.

Sharon English, 4-H Agent, offered youth workshops in Knitting 101, Basic Cake Decorating and Fun In The Kitchen.

In Knitting 101, four two-hour sessions were offered to youth ages 8 and up on how to cast on, knit, pearl and bind off their work.

Basic Cake Decorating provided youth ages 12 and up instruction on how to prepare and color icing, frost a cake, make simple borders and flowers — including roses — and write using icing. Each participant took home a small cake they decorated themselves using skills learned in the class.

Fun In The Kitchen provided youth ages 5 to 11 with training on how to read a recipe, how to increase or decrease recipes, measure ingredients, how to make and rollout dough and how to prepare cooked fruit. Best of all, the youth enjoyed eating the "fruits" of their labor!

## News of Note

### Local BRAC impact minimal

Less than 100 school-age children would be added to the school system by 2011 as a result of Base Realignment and Closure (BRAC). According to projections developed by the Center for Urban and Regional Studies at UNC-Chapel Hill, Cumberland, Hoke and Harnett counties would benefit most from BRAC.

### Ag Agent studies soybean rust

Ag Extension Agent David Morrison attended a Soybean Rust Training to learn more about diseases that affect soybeans. Morrison had opportunity to see soybean rust grown on soybeans in a greenhouse. Lack of identification and control of Soybean Rust could devastate a soybean crop and potentially cost millions in lost income to farmers.

### Library goes online

Scotland Memorial Library has a website at [scotlandcolibrary.com](http://scotlandcolibrary.com). It can be accessed from the [scotlandcounty.org](http://scotlandcounty.org) main page. Library Director Robert Busko said the site is a "work in progress." When complete, it will include links for newest books and a monthly calendar of events.

### Recreation Complex taking shape



The Splash Pad, right, puts the Recreation Complex project in perspective. The aerial view of the Complex shows the progress on the second phase, which includes three softball fields, one multi-purpose field, concession, a paved walking trail, a Frisbee golf course, picnic shelters and a playground.

### Going, going, almost gone!



**Above is a final look at the old hospital before all the walls come tumbling down.**

## Post Scripts

EMS staff celebrating employment anniversaries are **Sandy Lockey**, 16 years; **Amy Ratley**, 10 years; **Tracie Patterson**, 5 years;

and **Kristen Owens**, 2 years. ❀ Welcome back **Carlotta Rivers**, RN, Maternal Health Clinical Coordinator. ❀ Congratulations to Environmental Health Specialist **Danny Sprouse** and his wife Ann on the August 7 birth of grandson Matthew Lee Goodwin. ❀ **Bunny Anderson**, recently retired Soil and Water Conservation Agent, was recognized by the Board of Commissioners. Anderson received a plaque praising him for 11 years of service to the County and an additional 36 years of service in soil and water conservation throughout the Carolinas. ❀ Cooperative Extension Director **Cathy Graham** facilitated "The Fun Academy" for the DSS Management Team. Workshop focused on team building, de-stressing and re-energizing the staff. ❀ Our sympathies to former Tax Administrator **Gene Barber** on the death of his wife Delores.