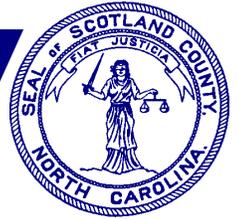


Scotland County

Monthly



AUGUST 2009

A newsletter for Scotland County employees

Listening Tour brings Obama officials to rural communities

U.S. Secretary of Agriculture Tom Vilsack responds to questions at a community forum hosted by Richmond Community College in Hamlet. Joining Secretary Vilsack at the August 17 forum were, left to right, U.S. Senator Richard Burr, Education Secretary Arne Duncan, Vilsack and U.S. Rep. Larry Kissell, event organizer.

Known as the Rural Listening Tour, an Obama Administration initiative, rural communities get an opportunity to discuss with United States leadership the efforts by the Administration to rebuild and revitalize rural America, including rural education and workforce development.

At each stop on the Rural Listening Tour, Secretary Vilsack listened to concerns by local residents and explained how USDA can assist them in developing solutions to challenges facing their communities.



Revolving Loan Fund boosts growth for local businesses

Scotland County was awarded \$75,000 to establish a Revolving Loan Fund designed to promote business growth and expansion within a community.

The award was received by the U.S. Department of Agriculture — Rural Development through the Rural Business Enterprise Grant Program.

By fostering business growth and expansion from within, the County has the ability to reduce unemployment and improve the quality of life of its citizens.

Chairman J.D. Willis said, "We are grateful to the U.S. Department of Agriculture for this award and we appreciate the the relationship the USDA has nurtured with rural communities such as ours."

The Revolving Loan Fund will be loaned to local businesses that have been in operation for a minimum of three years.

As the loans are repaid, the funds will then be available to loan to other small businesses in order to sustain the viability of the program.

Companies receiving the loan will be required to increase employment or create new capital investment. The loans will range from a minimum of \$15,000 to a maximum of \$75,000.

"The establishment of a Revolving Loan Fund was seen as an avenue to directly impact the local economy by assisting established companies to grow or expand while increasing employment opportunities," explained Economic Developer Greg Icard.

Icard added, "The Revolving Loan Fund is an additional tool that can be utilized in order to grow businesses from within and enrich our own community."

Register on-line for activities offered by Parks and Recreation

On-line registration for Parks and Recreation events is now available.

On-line registration began July 28 with football, cheerleading and soccer, and 45 registrations were completed on-line since then.

"Staff is also able compile all data on a secure system," said Parks and Recreation Director Shannon Newton.

"The system can be manipulated to assign teams, order uniforms, assign fields, set schedules and keep up-to-date scores," she added. "Coaches can have access to their team's information on-line and they are able to send e-mail to their players."

Newton added that coaches do not have access to information of other players.

Register on-line at
www.scotlandcountyparksandrecreation.org

Newton said the company providing the service also has quite a few customers other than Scotland County because it offers a secure webpage for customer safety.

First-time registrants for youth sports can register on-line, but they must bring proof of age for children participating in sports.

"Later, we will add all adult sports registrations and then facility registrations," said Newton.

Parks and Recreation developed an on-line registration feature at the recommendation of the Parks and Recreation Advisory Board.

"The Board was looking into on-line registration as a convenience for our customers," explained Newton.

Mass Care Support Trailer to serve special needs population

by Roylin Hammond, EMS

Emergency Services recently took delivery of a new Mass Care Support Trailer with contents geared toward assisting individuals with special needs.

Receipt of the trailer was made possible by the Department of Health and Human Services and NC Emergency Management with a \$14,655 Homeland Security grant.

15 trailers were purchased and placed in each of the Emergency Management regions throughout North Carolina. Scotland County will be home for the trailer for Region 6.

The trailer will support the operation of a Special Needs Shelter in any disaster situation that requires opening such a shelter.

It contains 40 cots in two sizes, 10 wheelchairs, two wheelchair ramps, walkers, walking canes, bath chairs and various other items to support a shelter with occupants requiring special needs.

Scotland County will house and use the trailer as needed but will also make the trailer available to other surrounding counties that may need to open such a shelter.

No Scotland County dollars were invested in the trailer other than the cost associated with picking the trailer up in Ramseur, NC, where it was manufactured.



The trailer contains items to support a shelter with occupants requiring special needs.

DSS boasts claim-free year

DSS was recognized by the County for improving its Worker's Compensation claims and overall Safety Awareness.

The agency received a special safety certificate and the employees were thanked with a complimentary breakfast.

DSS went from five claims that resulted in nine days of lost time that cost the County thousands in Worker's Comp claims to having no claims throughout 2008 until July 21, 2009.

"This is so significant because of the money DSS saved the County in Worker's Claims," said Risk Manager Tiffany Flowers. "The change looks very good not only to our current Worker's Comp provider but to others as well, and it allows the County to be competitive when shopping for coverage in that it can request lower rates."

Flowers added, "By obtaining the lowest rate possible for the County's Worker's Comp insurance it allows the County to save thousands of dollars, as we did this year."

It is hoped the recognition will encourage other departments to improve overall Safety Awareness and decrease claims.



welcomed granddaughter Timmeya Marie Malloy, born July 18. ☘ Welcome back **Debbie Maske**, Health.

Nixle keeps users connected to important community events

A new community information service designed to deliver important and timely information to County residents using the latest technology has been launched by the Sheriff's Office.

The service, Nixle, delivers trustworthy and important neighborhood-level public safety and community event notifications instantly sent to you by cell phone text message, email and web.

Nixle is free although standard text message rates apply for cell phone subscribers who do not have text plans with their cell phone providers.

There is no spam or advertising permitted with Nixle.

Register at <http://scotlandsheriff.org/> and click on the Nixle window. Nixle will walk the user through the simple registration steps.

During the registration process you decide what information you want and whether you want it sent to your cell phone, email or over the web.

Once registered, login to Nixle to stay current on safety alerts, neighborhood advisories and other valuable community information.

Introductions & transitions

Welcome to those individuals who joined Scotland County departments since June 16, 2009: **Lisa Lundy**, Health; **Victor Locklear**, Jail; **Daniel McLellan**, **Eric Icard** and **Mary Ann Reynolds**, Jail; and **Brook Hubbard** and **Candice Manning**, social services.

the Birthday list for September

1 Felisa Lockey (DSS); **2** Jennifer Clark (Sheriff) and Cathy Graham (Cooperative Extension); **5** Richard Taylor (Jail) and Tommy Butler and James Sweet (Sheriff); **6** Anita Nelson (DSS) and Denise Cox (EMS); **7** Holly Russell (Parks and Recreation); **8** Debra Kersey (Health); **10** Jeannie Freeman (DSS), Umeko Terry (Cooperative Extension) and Djuna Bethea (Jail); **11** Kimberly Villanueva (DSS), James Laviner (Sheriff) and Deborah Rogers (Health); **12** Tina Swinney (Jail); **13** Henry Freeman (EMS) and Roger Dial (Public Buildings); **14** Carlotta Rivers (Health); **16** Nancy Hughes (Tax); **18** Susan Butler (Administration) and Taronda Douglas (DSS); **20** Cardra Burns (Health) and Leon Gyles (Library); **25** Alisa Freeman (Health) and Falana Jackson (DSS); **26** Joshua Byrd (EMS); **29** Lynda McMillan (Health).

It was a summer of honors for **Randy Wood**, Cooperative Extension. Wood received the Achievement Award, which recognizes an agricultural agent relatively early in his/her career for excellence in programming and customer service. He also received the Communication Award in the Learning Module/Notebook Category and the Search for Excellence in Livestock Production, all conferred by the NC Association of County Agricultural Agents. ☘ **Annie Malloy**, Health,

Our condolences to **Shannon Newton**, Parks and Recreation, on the death of her mother, Jeane Campbell, and to **Nancy Bostick**, Administration, and **Lynda McMillan**, Health, on the death of their mother, Martha Rushing.

EMStatistics

EMS Report for July:

Responded to 456
Medical/Trauma calls
Treated 47 total traffic
accident patients
Administered 89
wellness/blood pressure
checks

911 Report Highlights:

413 EMS
390 Sheriff's
Department
331 Laurinburg Police
Department
28 Fire Department
835 hang-up calls
83 wrong numbers
49 open line calls
1,852 cellular calls
4,138 total calls to 911
**Top five complaints for
EMS Response**
66 sick person
(specific diagnosis)
47 traffic accidents
46 breathing
problems
37 chest pain
36 falls/back injuries
(traumatic)

Compiled by
Tommy Hatcher

Library puts DVD collection on its shelves

Scotland Memorial Library added DVDs to its lending collection. The 125 titles the Library made available to the public earlier this month feature ratings that range from 'G' through 'R'.

Particularly popular titles like *Race to Witch Mountain*, *The Dark Knight*, *Grand Torino* and *The Secret Life of Bees* have been checked out more than half a dozen time.

"Currently there are about 35 titles on the shelf while 90 DVDs are out in the County," said Library Director Leon Gyles. "The Library has been checking out an average of 20 titles a day."

Borrowers must be 18 to check out DVDs regardless of how the movie is rated. "It has nothing to do with the rating and everything to do with cost of replacement," Gyles said.

Two DVDs at a time can be borrowed for five days.

Gyles added, "All DVDs are in a locked case with a radio frequency identification device (RFID) tag in the case. The only time the case is unlocked is when it gets checked out by a customer."

"The Library can display the collection on the shelf and no one can go in, open the case and steal the DVD and leave us with the case," said Gyles. He added that the recent acquisition of a security asset system made it feasible for the Library to introduce a DVD collection to the borrowing public. "Anyone leaving with a locked case will trip the security alarm system as they go out the gate," Gyles said.

DVD titles range from Walt Disney features to current titles that have just been released on DVD. "We're not just trying to get the older, classics but the newer titles," Gyles explained. "The Library is trying to build a collection based on movies and travelogues."

Gyles said staff will judiciously buy additional DVDs when it comes to expanding the collection.

The Library also will accept DVD donations. "The staff is pretty in tune to what the customers want and that would determine whether donated DVDs would be placed in the collection."

Those not included in the collection along with any book donations will be placed in the Library's next book sale, tentatively scheduled for Saturday, November 7.



The DVD case is locked until it is checked out.

4-H youth learn about wool

Scotland County 4-H hosted a sewing workshop to teach youngsters how to sew with wool. The 10 participants learned special techniques to use in sewing, ironing and caring for wool garments.

Several participants plan to compete in the 2009 NC Make-it-withWool contest September 12 in Concord along with other youth from North Carolina and possibly win a trip to the January 2010 National competition in Nashville, TN.



Snakes a crowd pleaser



Leon Gyles, left, and Sherry Lane, center, help cradle Penelope the Python, a star attraction of Snakes Alive! The perennial summer reading program event sponsored by Scotland Memorial Library is a favorite for kids as it is for adults. The 2009 presentation was no exception as Snakes Alive! attracted a standing-room-only crowd. Lane said of Penelope, "She feels like plastic."

Say 'Thank You' in an email

by Kevin Patterson, County Manager

Scotland County developed a new program to recognize how County employees help each other every day.

The ThankYou Program is where one employee can acknowledge another employee who helps you during a day.

For instance, the employee might have helped you by:

- Pulling a file for you
- Getting information off of the network or internet
- Holding a door open for you
- Making you laugh because of their sense of humor
- Demonstrating an infectious good mood

Send a note to thankyou@scotlandcounty.org when another employee did or said something to lighten your workload or your frame of mind. You can find thankyou@scotlandcounty.org on the Employment page of the Scotland County website.

When so many people only seem to focus on the negatives, it's time we recognized the positives.

I challenge everyone to catch someone doing something good. Let's reinforce the positives that impact us every day.

Parks and Recreation takes next step toward green

When staff at Parks and Recreation took note of the amount of paper it trashed, the department decided to take the appropriate green next step.

"It seems as if we generate a lot of paper waste and it is just as easy to put into a recycling box as a trash can," said Parks and Recreation Director Shannon Newton.

She added, "We were already recycling plastic, aluminum and newspaper, and the City of Laurinburg was offering the paper recycling for a while now."

The City of Laurinburg picks up recyclables and paper waste and takes it to Wagram Paper Stock.

Newton hopes to alert all the groups that use Scotland Place on the importance of recycling the by-products of their meetings.

"In a perfect world, it would even be great to have a compost bin for non-meat food waste," Newton said.

She added, "Typical waste from Scotland Place users other than food is plastic bottles, aluminum cans and paper documents."

"As part of our recycling, Parks and Recreation does shred confidential information, and the shredded material will also be recycled."

Parks and Recreation in the future will assess recycling at all recreation facilities.

Popular fitness program continues for third session

The Working Women's Workouts Program met with such success, it will continue for a third six-week session beginning September 21.

There are currently 26 participants in the second session, and attendance at every exercise class is more than 90 percent.

"Interest continues because I get calls weekly just from word of mouth," said Health Educator Kathie Cox, who developed and implemented the program in June. "Participants are from business and industry, social services, public and private health, Parks and Recreation and the faith community."

The second six-week session will end September 10. The third six-week session will begin Monday, September 21, and run through October 29 with exercise classes Mondays, Tuesdays and Thursdays from 5 p.m. to 6 p.m. Classes begin promptly at 5:15 and end at 6 p.m., which allows enough time for participants to arrive and sign in.

The program is facilitated by non-certified volunteers. "This is a fun, non-traditional and non-intimidating exercise program for anyone who want to participate," Cox explained.

The \$12 participation fee helps offset the cost of Scotland Place utilities and the cost of purchasing Therabands, new exercise videos and copying informational handouts and packets. Anyone can join at anytime and the fee will be prorated.

"The program we are using for the current session is titled *Lose Ten in Five*," Cox said. "Each week participants receive a packet of information on nutrition and physical activities to help them with their weight loss and nutritional goals."

The Working Women's Workouts program is a collaboration of Scotland County Healthy Carolinians, Scotland County Health Department, Scotland County Parks and Recreation and Cooperative Extension.



Volunteer lends helping hand

Jessica Bowen, a sophomore at Scotland High and daughter of Robert Bowen, Administration, volunteered at the government offices on Covington Street.

She performed a variety of clerical and filing duties as assigned. Jessica, pictured right, also assisted Amy Richburg, Soil and Water, in preparing for the agency's educational and informational activities in the public schools.

News of Note

Tucker 'Biggest Loser' in weight-loss challenge

Mac Tucker, EMS, won the agency's Biggest Loser contest by shedding 23.5 pounds over a two-month period. The contest began the first week in May and concluded July 4. Nine EMS participants took up the challenge. Even after winning the contest, Tucker vowed to lose 10 to 15 more pounds. "We have a couple of employees who joined Weight Watchers and are enjoying success with that program," Tucker said. "We encourage other departments to hold similar competitions because it makes it easier to keep up a regimen when you have others who are in the fight with you." Tucker even has a new motto: "Here's to a healthier, slimmer Scotland County!"

Seniors to highlight their artistic talents

Scotland Place Senior Center will host its second Annual Fall Art and Handicraft Exhibition, 1 p.m. to 3 p.m. Monday, September 21, at Scotland Place. The community is invited to attend. The exhibition celebrates the creative side of Senior Center participants, who will highlight their talent in visual, performing, heritage and folk art. For more information contact Scotland Place Senior Center 277-2550.

The "Booze It & Lose It" campaign zeros in on drunken drivers with extensive anti-driving while impaired (DWI) enforcement and education. The campaign continues through September 7. Sobriety checkpoints are set up in all NC counties as part of the State's anti-drunk driving campaign. Law officers use six mobile breath-alcohol testing units, better known as BATMobiles, to increase the efficiency of on-site DWI processing. Each BATMobile is equipped with workstations for Intoxilyzer 5000 breath test instruments, cellular telephones, computers, officers' workstations, magistrates' work area, lavatory, DWI checkpoint signs, traffic cones, traffic vests, search batons, screening tests devices and all other necessary equipment and supplies for processing DWI suspects. **Source: Nixle alert.**