



# SCOTLAND COUNTY MONTHLY

DECEMBER 2001

A newsletter for Scotland County employees

## BOE tests equipment for use in early voting



**Judy Riggins goes through a mock voting process on the EV 2000.**

The Scotland County Board of Elections (BOE) has begun testing electronic voting systems to be used for Early Voting Process in 2002.

The touch screen EV (ExactVote) by Fidar Doubleday, the first of eight systems approved by the State Board of Elections, was demonstrated in the elections office. Each system will be carefully reviewed by the BOE in order to select the best system for the County.

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## DSS story told on videotape

When Jan Elliott gives her annual report to the Board of Commissioners in January, she'll be bringing out the television and VHS to do so.

Part of what the DSS Director has to say will be told in a 12-minute videotape produced by Laurinburg resident Jim Helgeson.

The videotape tells the DSS story on a more personal level, Elliott explained. "Clients discuss what the services offered at DSS have meant to them."

Although the videotape provides a few facts and figures, the focus remains on the human side of DSS services. "We don't want to date it by providing information that changes. We hope to use this for

*see DSS, page 2*

## United Way Campaign successful as staff giving exceeds expectations

County employees broke another goal in the 2001 United Way Campaign. This year, County staff pledged \$13,493, with 57% staff participation. Last year, the County staff raised \$10,662, with 53% participation.

Driven by the events of September 11, employees reached deep into their pockets to help propel the Campaign to a successful conclusion. While doing so, employees also took advantage of the County's Fair Share, where one hour's wage per month is deducted from the employee's paycheck.

Employees who choose to give to the United Way through Fair Share receive a day off on their birthday.

Departments that had 100 percent participation and 100 percent Fair Share include Engineering, Landfill/Recycle Center and Planning and Zoning. Departments with 100 percent participation include Cooperative Extension, Parents as Teachers, Soil and Water and Veteran's Administration.

County Manager Scott Sauer said he is pleased with the results of this year's Campaign. "These are difficult times for the County, the State and nationally," he said. "Despite that, or because of that, our employees have given generously to support organizations through the United Way that work to enrich the lives of our citizens and to assist individuals who are experiencing financial hardship."

Personnel Administrator Susan Butler agreed. "The tragedy of September 11 perhaps got more people to think about the United Way. Even though the funds remain in the County, people got into the spirit of giving."

Sauer and Butler noted that a half dozen or so years ago, the County averaged \$4,000 to \$6,000. Sauer praised the efforts of Office Assistant Lynn Poe. "Lynn worked hard this year on behalf of the United Way Campaign. This couldn't have been achieved without her dedication to the Campaign and what it hoped to achieve."

Butler added, "Lynn kept everything going. She called the department heads, and she continued to call to remind them of the Campaign. This Campaign could not have been successful without her. Lynn's enthusiasm is contagious."



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## Notes from the County Manager

**Greetings.** December 2001 marks my family's eighth Christmas season in Scotland County. I have spent considerable time reflecting on the blessings I have received and enjoy on a daily basis.

I am indeed grateful to be associated with such a committed group of professionals. Scotland County is a better place to live because of **your** dedication, service and stewardship.

Public service, particularly at the County level, where we can positively impact so many lives, is an opportunity for stewardship — of local resources and the public trust — which I believe is a personal calling and a privilege.

Thank you for answering the call of public service. Thank you for your tireless work ethic, enthusiasm and "can do" spirit that make Scotland County such a special place to work and live.

Enthusiasm and "can do" spirit was demonstrated through generous donations in the recent United Way Campaign. United Way giving among County employees was at an all-time high as nearly \$13,500 was raised. What an excellent conclusion to a Campaign that last year raised just under \$10,700 among County employees. Thank you for closing out 2001 on such a high note and for your contribution in pushing the United Way Campaign over the top.

That, and your consistent, dedicated hard work are the best gifts any County Manager could receive.

Happy New Year!



Scott Sauer

## Introductions & transitions

Welcome to those who have joined Scotland County Departments since October 15: **Louise Jackson**, Register of Deeds; **Charles Ellerbe**, Public Buildings; **David Newton** and **Mary McCollum**, Sheriff; **Timothy Hunt** and **Tracie Jacobs**, part-time at EMS; **Tiffeny Fields** and **William Alsobrook**, temporary part-time at DSS; **Beverly Thompson**, part-time at PALs; **Brandy Locklear**, Jail; and **Jennifer Gannon**, part-time at Planning and Zoning.

Congratulations to the following individuals who are making transitions: **Miriam Bounds**, Supervisor of Home Health Clinical Services to Director of Home Health, Inc.; and **Kim Crump**, who is responsible for quality improvement, staff development and infection control, assumes additional duties as Assistant Director of Home Health. Health Department Social Worker **Melinda Salley** has been appointed Social Worker Coordinator.

# YOU...

## BOE tests machines for early voting process

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The equipment chosen by the BOE for early voting will not be owned by the County, rather it will be made available through a lease agreement.

BOE Chairman John Stewart said that 1,860 took advantage of early voting in the 2000 General Election, where paper ballots were used. Paper ballots were counted by hand in the 2000 General Election. It is expected the number of early voters will increase in 2002.

Newer technology will, at the end of the election day, ensure faster unofficial election results, reduce manual transfer of figures, possible transfer errors and manpower.

"We are looking for accurate results as we speed up the electoral process and make it convenient for voters," said Stewart.

## Give a Hand, Get a Hand is DSS portrayal

*continued from page 1*

informational sessions and new employee orientation," Elliott said.

"We want folks to understand DSS and to understand why we do what we do," Elliott added. "We're not 'all about welfare.' We're about helping people help themselves and giving people a helping hand when they need it."

With that in mind, Elliott said the concept of the videotape is *Give a Hand, Get a Hand*.

Helgeson received much praise from Elliott for helping DSS to achieve that concept on the videotape.

"The project took about five months to complete, and Jim did the scripting and the filming," Elliott explained. "He spent a lot of time in our agency and absorbed a lot of what we do."

Commissioner Clint Willis, recently elected President of the State Association of Boards of Social Services, offered his view of what DSS is all about. "Social Services is not the problem, it's the solution."



*The videotape will be used for orientation of new employees and as an information piece at various meetings.*

## Eaton brings Christmas cheer to DSS children

Youngsters in Department of Social Services custody and foster children were on the minds of Eaton employees when they donated toys to DSS just in time for the holidays. The variety of toys donated will appeal to children of all ages.

## Sheriff's Department opens three more substations

Now that there's a substation at the Laurel Hill Community Center, the Sheriff's Department has located three additional substations throughout the County.

Substations have opened in the town halls in Gibson and Wagram and in the Stewartsville Fire Department at John's Station.

Although the substations will not be staffed continuously, it is the intent of Sheriff Buddy Blalock to establish a presence by law enforcement Countywide.

"Visibility in the community is very important," he said. "We will man them as best we can."

Blalock said convenience for County residents also was a factor in establishing the substations. "This will allow residents to file a report or talk to an officer closer to where they live."

The Sheriff hopes the increased presence by his staff in those areas may deter crime and other illegal activities.

## the Birthday list for January

**3** Lacy Blue (Transportation); **4** Angelita Locklear (DSS); **6** Gladys Holmes (Health), Deborah Tardiff (DSS), Robert Peele (Inspections) and Jeff Oxendine (Public Buildings); **7** Larry Locklear and Frank Fairley (Public Buildings) and Bruce Clark (EMS); **6** Amy Ratley (EMS); **7** Eric Pate (Sheriff); **8** Deanna Snead (EMS); **11** Violet Moore (Health), Sandra Lockey (EMS) and Russell Baker (Election Board); **16** Douglas Yongue, Jr. (Health Board); **17** Herman Gillis (Engineering) and Patty Bass (Jail); **20** Hiram Jones (Inspections) and Paul Lemmond (Sheriff); **21** Dannie Hill and Donna Deese (Health) and Jonathan Edwards (Sheriff); **22** Karen Chavis (DSS); **23** Elizabeth Norton (Jail) and Missy Collins (Health); **24** Annette Adams (Tax); **25** Jane Murray (Health); **26** Danny Monroe (Sheriff); **27** Martin Clark (Landfill); **31** Nicole Yarborough (DSS).

## Post Scripts

For the second consecutive year **David Burns** and **Nancy Shelley** were nominated Chairman and Vice Chair of the Scotland County Board of Commissioners, respectively, during the governing body's reorganization process December 3. ☼ Vice Chair **Nancy Shelley** and Commissioners **Sam Snowdon** and **Clint Willis** participated in the Christmas Parade while **Teddy Locklear**, Environmental Health, was the star of the parade as Santa Claus. ☼ The Health Department commends **Vikki Sellgren**, animal control officer, November Employee of the Month, and **Shirley Grooms**, management support, December Employee of the Month, for their dedication and service to the County. The Health Department shares additional news. **Dannie Hill**, RNC, recently received her certification in Adult Health Physical Assessment. Thoughts are with **Barbara Mack**, **Sandy Pridgen** and **Deloris McNeil** as they take leaves of absence during the holidays. Thank you to **Bonnie Norton**, who assisted the Health Department in getting in the Christmas spirit. Much success to **Janet Cox**, RN, in her future endeavors. **Teddy Locklear** was instrumental in developing a proposed local well ordinance with the assistance of the **Healthy Carolinians Environmental**



*The door to the substation at the Laurel Hill Community Center.*

**Health Committee.** The ordinance will be presented for adoption consideration at the January 15, 2002 Board of Health meeting. The Health Department was the recipient of several grants, including monies for TB education, increased family planning services and colo-rectal screening. ☼ **Marcus Norton**, Planning and Zoning, was among seven individuals who graduated from the 2001 Leadership Scotland class of the Laurinburg/Scotland County Area Chamber of Commerce. ☼ The **DSS Child Support** unit received Certificates of Achievement from the North Carolina Child Support Enforcement Program for exceeding goals in five program areas. ☼ DSS board member Ronnie Gibson and Joe Knott, financial supervisor, attended a one-day training workshop, October 18, in Greenville, NC. The workshop was sponsored by the NC Institute of Government. ☼ **Robert Sanford** and **Mildred Williams** of Veterans Services attended a December 10 workshop in Fayetteville on new regulations for claims by veterans.



*A busy Santa Claus had ample time to stop by the John Blue House to compare Christmas lists with County youth.*

## Church group gives auditorium a facelift

In order to offset the cost of the rent, a local church has been conducting renovations to the auditorium at the Laurel Hill Community Center. Parks and Recreation Director Shannon Newton estimated that the church has invested between \$3,000 and \$4,000 in supplies, materials and labor so far.

Church members removed the non-working steam-heat pipes after Public Buildings installed a central heating system. They painted the interior and laid carpet on the aisles of the concrete floor. Old green velvet curtains on the windows will be replaced with blinds.

Newton said the Laurel Hill Community Center, formerly Laurel Hill Primary School, is available for use by non-profit and for-profit organizations. In the past, the facility has been used by the Kiwanis Club and the Department of Social Services. Newton said rental income goes into the General Fund.

**Call 277-2585 for information and to reserve space.**