

SCOTLAND COUNTY MONTHLY

DECEMBER 2002

A newsletter for Scotland County employees

Oath of office given to three new Commissioners



J.D. Willis, left, Charles "Scooter" Jordan and Betty Blue Gholston took the oath of office as Scotland County Commissioners December 2. Commissioners Willis and Jordan represent Stewartsville Township while Commissioner Gholston represents Spring Hill Township. The three officiated at their first meeting that same evening where David L. Burns was nominated Chairman and Nancy J. Shelley Vice Chair.

Property taxes due January 5

Just a friendly reminder for all County employees that property tax for the current year 2002 is due January 5, 2003. Any bills not paid on or before that date will be considered delinquent and subject to additional penalties monthly and also collection remedies.

To avoid long lines at the Tax Office with the approach of January 5, a payment drop box is located in front of the Courthouse for the convenience of all County taxpayers. Payments also can be mailed to PO Box 488.

Due to the recent revaluation, all residents will receive by mail an abstract designed for listing additional items owned aside from real estate properties including singlewide mobile homes, boats, airplanes, farm equipment, untagged/unregistered vehicles and any additions or deletions to real property since January 2001. The forms should be mailed or delivered personally to the Tax Office.

"We want to get our records as correct as we can before the tax bills go out in July," said Tax Administrator Kep Kepley.

The listing period for these items is January 1 to January 31, 2003.

County's GIS Services made available over the Internet

by Marcus Norton, Planning Director

In every part of the North Carolina and the United States, the world has changed. The change occurred almost overnight.

The number of people who can remember the day the IBM Electric Select typewriter was moved to the back room and replaced by a desktop computer and monitor decreases daily.

There were promises of information delivery, and efficiencies when conducting business, and revolutions in communications. There is no question that the day is upon us and the promises are fulfilled.

The change has occurred in Scotland County. Whether we like it, are ready for it, or are indifferent, we have become a Digital Community.

On January 7, the Scotland County Geographic Information System (GIS) will be available to the general public from their homes, at public libraries or anywhere there is an Internet connection.

Through the web browser, users will be able to access maps, aerial photography, property ownership, streets and roads, waterway and flood, and a wealth of data that previously required "a trip to the courthouse."

It gets better! Data can be integrated, displayed, downloaded, queried, and analyzed and saved to a personal computer; in fact the uses are endless.

With this on-line service, the Scotland County GIS truly revolutionizes the way the County provides services. Look for the website on January 7, 2003 at http://gis_web/SCOTLAND/viewer.htm.

In recent years technology has advanced and costs have dropped so that using this technological tool makes sense. Since the County began using GIS a year ago, it has become an indispensable tool.

New efficiencies are realized in emergency services, health, economic development, planning and tax assessment. And more services are planned.

For now however, everyone is encouraged to access the site and explore the functions. Find your home and neighborhood and keep in mind, being a part of the digital world is a giant step in efficiency and productivity, and fun too.

THERE'S MORE INSIDE

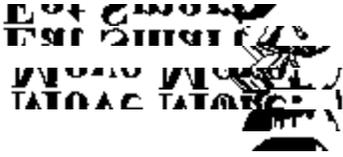
Wellness program planned page 2

Decorating for the holiday page 3

Health Promotion Program launched

An employee wellness program that specifically encourages more physical activity among employees has been implemented by Stephanie McDonald, Health Educator and Barbara Mack, RN.

An advisory council made up of employee representatives from all County departments will work with McDonald and Mack to help develop the employee wellness program.



“Given the amount of time and energy individuals spend on the job, the workplace is one of the most influential settings for promoting healthier lifestyles for most adults,” McDonald said. Mack added, “The workplace offers a number

of important advantages that are often critical to ensuring health behavior change.” For starters, advisory council members will complete a worksite health assessment form and distribute activity questionnaires to employees in their departments. Mack, McDonald and the council will then identify workplace locations where healthy activities by employees can be facilitated.

McDonald and Mack agree that the benefits of the program could be significant in that it will decrease absenteeism, reduce health care costs, increase productivity and improve employee health and morale.

REMINDER: Employees sometimes are asked by directive from the County Manager to arrive at work late or not at all, usually because unsafe weather conditions exist. In that case, record hours not worked in the “other” column. Write “admin” as shown.

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Commodity Program demand rises

As uncertain economic conditions continue locally and nationally, the demand for food distribution for the Commodity Program is on the rise. Food was distributed to 610 households, which represents 1,223 people, an increase over the Commodity Program in the last quarter.

Food made available through the USDA included cereal, instant milk, peanut butter, canned fruits and vegetables, frozen whole chickens, ham and beef stew. The program is organized by DSS with assistance from the volunteer fire departments.

Students take to kayaks on the lake



St. Andrews students and the County Manager spent a Saturday exploring parts of the college campus from Lake Ansley C. Moore. A dozen students geared up and took to the water in kayaks and canoes as a rewarding finish to a campus clean-up. Kayaking on the campus lake was a first for the students and for County Manager Scott Sauer, above left. “It was a dream come true. I’ve been fantasizing about that lake for some time now,” Sauer said. Students put in from Granville Beach on the St. Andrews campus, above right, in kayaks and canoes provided by Sauer.

A picture-perfect gift



The staff at Solid Waste presented a poster-sized photo to their supervisor, County Engineer Jim Blackwell. Kneeling in front of the newly purchased Volvo Articulating Truck are Brandi Chavis, Mike Osteen and Purcell Quick. Standing are Steve Edge, Carolyn Chavis, Joy Nolan, Bryant Higgins, Glenn Lockey, Ronald Brigman, Wesley Herring, Charlie Osteen, Martin “Pappy” Clark and Kathy Medlin.

EM Statistics November

EMS Report: Responded to 315 Medical/Trauma calls. Treated 53 motor vehicle accident patients. Provided 2 stand-by medical coverages. Made 1 departmental presentation. **911 Report:** Received 1,203 total calls — 254 EMS — 244 Sheriff’s Department — 36 Laurinburg Police Department — 31 Fire Departments — 247 hang-up calls — 122 wrong numbers — 116 open lines calls — 426 Cellular calls — 18 Robeson County — 19 Hoke County — 17 Animal Control. Report compiled by Tommy Hatcher.

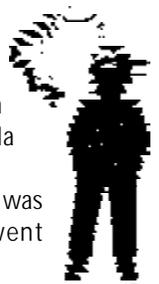
Foster kids get gifts

38 foster children from infant to age 17 will receive gifts for the holidays thanks to the generosity of industry, business, service organizations, churches, DSS staff and the Foster Parents Association.

A Christmas wish-list tree at Plaid Piper allowed residents to participate in the season of giving. Affixed to the tree were ornaments like the one below that listed the age, size and sex of the child and the gift they would like to receive.

Gifts also were purchased through fundraisers — a silent auction sponsored by DSS, a lunch plate sale sponsored by the Foster Parents Association and a raffle for lawn furniture donated by the Umbrella Factory in Laurel Hill.

As gifts filled Cynthia’s Place it was apparent that no child’s wish went unanswered this year.





Halls beautifully bedecked

Few people weren't in the holiday spirit as evidenced by the colorful adornments and decorations decking County buildings, offices and the halls, of course.

Pictured beginning at the top left, **Doris Smart** in Inspections carries a handmade holiday handbag during the holidays, and it seems a Secret Santa has left a goody bag for Finance Officer **Charles Williams**.

DSS halls were lined with Christmas stockings perfect for filling. Accounting Technician **Bill McMillan** was apparently designated keeper of all things delicious and sweet. A long-legged snowman awaits a big snowfall.

It's a "Ho Ho Ho" to all on the door of 16-A Sentencing. A Christmas tree sheds ambient light at DSS. Inspections Director **Tony McQuage** doesn't appear distracted despite the numerous office decorations. A clarinet ensemble of Scotland County school students entertain County employees.

Best holiday wishes to you and your family as we look to 2003!



Notes from the County Manager

Greetings. I am amazed at how swiftly 2002 passed. Although "thank you" doesn't seem to be enough, this message is sincerely expressed.

Thank you County employees for your hard work and for putting citizens first.

Thank you new Commissioners Betty Blue Gholston, Charles "Scoofer" Jordan and J.D. Willis for your willingness to step up to the plate and work to improve all of our lives.

Thank you Chairman David Burns, Vice Chair Nancy Shelley and Commissioners Sam Snowdon and Clint Willis for the dignity you bring to the County.

To everyone, enjoy your family during the holidays. Stay safe. For that, I continue to say **thank you**.



Scott Sauer

the Birthday list for January

3 Lacy Blue (Transportation); **4** Angelita Locklear and Ronald Gibson (DSS); **6** Deborah Tardif (DSS) and Gladys Holmes (Health); **7** Frank Fairely and Larry Locklear (Public Buildings), Bruce Clark (EMS) and Rachel Campbell (Transportation); **8** Deanna Snead (EMS); **11** Russell Baker (Board of Elections), Violet Moore (Health) and Sandra Lockey (EMS); **16** Doug Yongue, Jr. (Board of Health); **17** Herman Gillis (E-911 Wire); **20** Hiram Jones (Inspections), Paul Lemmond (Sheriff) and Elizabeth Bishop (DSS); **21** Jonathan Edwards (Sheriff) and Donna Deese (Health); **22** Karen Chavis (DSS); **23** Ellen Collins (Health) and Elizabeth Norton (Jail); **25** Jane Murray (Health); **26** James Monroe (Sheriff); **31** Nicole Yarborough (DSS).

Post Scripts

A speedy recovery to **Gene Jackson**, Public Buildings. ☿ **Joe Knott** and **Beckie Kimbrell**, DSS, attended a seminar in Fayetteville, December 12, *Dealing Effectively with Unacceptable Employee Behavior*. ☿ Congratulations to EMS dispatchers **Larry Tunstall** and **Ronnie Lynne Taylor** on their marriage November 30. ☿ In Health Department news, congratulations to **Missy Collins** RN, November Employee of the Month and to **Danny Sprouse**, RS, December Employee of the Month. Welcome back to **Esther Taylor** RN, **Tina Hunt** RN and **Shirley Grooms**. We wish **Deborah Rogers** a speedy recovery. Congratulations to **Mary Armstrong**, whose daughter, Mia, was selected first runner-up in the Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority Debutante Cotillion. ☿ **Tony McQuage**, Inspections, is 2002 Leadership Scotland class graduate.

2003 Meeting Schedule Board of Commissioners

<i>January 6</i>	<i>May 5</i>	<i>September 8</i>
<i>February 3</i>	<i>June 2</i>	<i>October 6</i>
<i>March 10</i>	<i>July 7</i>	<i>November 3</i>
<i>April 7</i>	<i>August 4</i>	<i>December 1</i>

2003 Holiday Schedule

- New Year's Day, January 1*
- Martin Luther King, Jr. Birthday, January 20*
- Good Friday, April 18*
- Memorial Day, May 26*
- Independence Day, July 4*
- Labor Day, September 1*
- Veteran's Day, November 11*
- Thanksgiving, November 27-28*
- Christmas, December 24-26*



Introductions & transitions

Welcome employees who joined County departments since October 16: **Alvin Martin** and **Jamie Haywood**, DSS; **Kori Quick**, part-time in EMS; **John Smith**, temporary at Solid Waste.

Preventive measures taught in bloodborne pathogens class

by *Stephanie McDonald, Health Educator*

Bloodborne pathogens are bacteria and viral material that are found in the blood and can be transmitted by blood and body fluids.

Some examples of body fluids that may contain bloodborne pathogens include: semen, vaginal secretions, cerebrospinal fluid, synovial fluid, pleural fluid, peritoneal fluid, amniotic fluid, saliva contact during dental procedures, body tissues/organs and other body fluids visibly contaminated with blood.

Bloodborne pathogens can infect a person in several ways including: an accidental injury by a contaminated sharp object such as needles and broken glass; by open cuts, nicks and skin abrasions. This also includes acne and dermatitis such as poison ivy or eczema; by mucous membranes of the mouth, eyes or nose; and through indirect transmission of touching a contaminated surface and then touching the mouth, nose, eyes or open skin.

The most common types of bloodborne pathogens are HIV, Hepatitis B and Hepatitis C. These bloodborne pathogens infect people of all ages and socioeconomic classes. Many people carry bloodborne pathogens without visible signs or symptoms and are unaware that they are infected.

Your employers written exposure control plan includes: a description of which employees are covered by the standard, measures you and your facility must take to minimize your risk of exposure, and procedures to follow if there is an exposure incident. Standard precautions provide rules for handling all people and substances in a manner that minimizes one's risk of exposure.

The Centers for Disease Control advocates the use of Universal Precautions. The theory of Universal Precautions is treating every person and substance as if it were infected. OSHA imposed new standards on March 6, 1992 for employees and employers. OSHA requires that every employer must tell their employees about bloodborne pathogens.

Free monthly bloodborne pathogen classes are offered to all County employees by the Health Department. Classes are held on the 2nd Monday of each month at 3 p.m. in the Commissioners Chamber. Individuals other than County employees who wish to enroll in the class may do so for a fee of \$15. For more information, call 277-2440.

There are seven tactics to reduce the risk of exposure to bloodborne pathogens on the job.

- *An exposure control plan*
- *Standard precautions*
- *Engineering controls*
- *Personal protective equipment*
- *Work practice control*
- *Good housekeeping*
- *Hepatitis B vaccine*

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.