

# Scotland County Monthly

NOVEMBER 2007



A newsletter for Scotland County employees

## Palmetto Aluminum prepares for early 2008 business opening

It was a stroke of luck that a single piece of equipment in the vacant MSD building was just what John Franken needed.

Franken is President of Palmetto Aluminum LLC, a manufacturer of handrails for stairs and balconies and for a variety of steel and vinyl fencing for residential, commercial and industrial use.

The existing paint line in the vacant building is a piece of equipment critical to the successful operation of Palmetto Aluminum.

Franken also was impressed with the quality of the building and the amount of land available for future expansion.

Franken purchased the building and made a \$1 million capital applications at the beginning of 2008.



**John Franken cuts the ribbon to Palmetto Aluminum. Behind him are Commissioner Leon Butler, left, and Chamber of Commerce Chairman and Commissioner Guy McCook, right.**

investment. The business will open with 12 full-time employees and expects the number to grow to 20 by the end of next year.

During Palmetto Aluminum's recent ribbon cutting ceremony, Commissioner Leon Butler thanked the company for creating jobs and for choosing Scotland County as a base for its operations.

Chamber of Commerce Chairman and Commissioner Guy McCook said any time a company invests in the community and creates jobs, the dollars generated from that business and those jobs are returned to the community.

The plant will accept employment

## Community 'brands' itself for economic development

The County, City of Laurinburg and Chamber of Commerce are taking steps to 'brand' the community to promote it for economic development.

The initial effort in branding the area will start with elected officials, who will be asked to wear windshirts and windbreakers with "Laurinburg and Scotland County North Carolina" stitched on them and accented with a tartan strip as pictured below.

"The garments will be presented to State and federal officials for ceremonial purposes and to individuals who locate business and industry in the community," said Interim County Manager/Finance Officer Kevin Patterson.

Patterson explained that wearing the garments will give the community more visibility.

[see Logo, page 2](#)



## Safety counts for Risk Manager

Tiffany Flowers has already toured County offices and, so far, she is pleased with what she sees.

Flowers fills the County's new position of Risk Manager.

Flowers previously worked for Hartford Insurance as a loss control consultant. A graduate of NC A&T, Flowers earned her B.S. in Occupational Safety and Health.

"My game plan is to look at how things were done in the past in terms of risk management and determine what worked and what didn't," Flowers explained.

From there, Flowers will develop policies, procedures and programs to correct those practices that didn't work.

Her assessment is positive. "I was pleased with the safety and security measures. The doors, emergency lights and exits were clear, and the buildings are accessible. Being a public entity, that's important."

For the foreseeable future Flowers said, "I want to go into the departments and see what all employees do on a day-to-day basis to see if their jobs can be done more efficiently and safely and still suit the demands of their job and the demands of the public."

Flowers said she doesn't plan to make any surprise visits. "I don't want people to see me as that safety person making an inspection. I'm here to serve the employees and their clients."

In January, Flowers will become a regular contributor in the *Scotland County Monthly* offering safety tips that can be applied to the workplace as well as the home.



**Tiffany Flowers**

# News of Note

## Parks and Recreation gets new look on the web

A new Parks and Recreation web page is now linked from [www.scotlandcounty.org](http://www.scotlandcounty.org). Just click on Parks and Recreation or key in its new address [www.scotlandcountyparksandrecreation.org](http://www.scotlandcountyparksandrecreation.org). The web page will be kept current with activities, schedules and items of interest for residents and visitors. Parks and Recreation Marketing Specialist Ricky Allen developed the web page.

## Drivers experience transportation in wheelchairs

SCATS (Scotland Area Transit System) drivers participated in sensitivity training November 29 on passengers who use wheelchairs. SCATS drivers rode in the wheelchairs as passengers to get an accurate indication of how they feel when being transported in a SCATS vehicle. The drivers participated in an additional educational session December 7 on drugs and alcohol.

## Area Transit thanks customers

Scotland Area Transit System's Red and Blue lines extended a big thank you to its customers by hosting free Fridays. The free Fridays were December 7, 14 and 21 to accommodate customers who added holiday shopping to their lists of things to do this month. "This is just a way for SCATS to say thank you and to let its riders know how much we appreciate their using SCATS regularly throughout the year," said Transportation Coordinator Gracie Rettig.

## Reuse medical reimbursement debit cards

Employees who used debit cards in 2007 for the Medical Reimbursement Plan will be able to use the same debit card in 2008 if they re-enrolled in the Medical Flex plan for 2008. The first year employees used debit cards was in 2007. The employee's enrollment amount for 2008 will be available January 1. If you do not have your card and need a replacement, please contact Susan Butler as soon as possible so a new card can be issued. Employees enrolling for the first time in the Medical Flex will receive a card very soon.

## Sheriff's deputies trained on Taser use

The Office of the Sheriff is now equipped with Tasers, which allow officers to apply them as defensive weapons as an option to deadly force. Deputies must complete eight hours of training before Tasers are issued to them. Part of the training requires the deputies to be shot by a Taser, which is a high-voltage stun gun, so they can experience first-hand its effects. Sheriff Shep Jones said the procedure would ensure that deputies do not use the Taser without just cause.

## Rural Center grants help small businesses

Small businesses that have less than 50 employees and less than \$1 million in annual sales might qualify for grant assistance from the NC Rural Center. The grants, which are available for up to \$50,000, also would help fund start-ups for small businesses or expansions provided new jobs are created. Funds also could be used for training and technical assistance. According to Interim County Manager/Finance Officer Kevin Patterson, some small businesses have already been identified that might qualify for a Rural Center grant. "The County wants to help its small businesses grow any way it can," Patterson said. "The ultimate goal is to increase employment locally."

## Logo 'brands' community

*continued from page 1*



**Laurinburg City Manager Craig Honeycutt wears the windbreaker.**

A Chamber committee selected the design. Patterson said, "That design offers flexibility because Laurinburg is interchangeable with the names of any of the other municipalities in the County who wish to use it for a more focused marketing attempt."

Patterson expects the logo to be used on letterhead and on marketing materials and taken to trade shows and regional community promotional events.

"We want to attract industry and retail to the County that will grow the tax base and increase employment," said Patterson.

## the Birthday list for January

**1** Clarice Holmes (Board of Elections) and James Davis (Jail); **3** Debra Webb and Joan Walters (DSS); **4** William Matthews (Health Board) and Angelita Locklear (DSS); **5** Leo Ricks (Splash Pad), Doris Donovan (Parks and Recreation) and Ronald Ivey (Sheriff); **6** Deborah Tardif (DSS) and Annette Gooselin (Sheriff); **7** Wiley Luther (Sheriff) and Larry Locklear (Public Buildings); **8** Deanna Carlyle (EMS); **11** Stacy Shannon (Transportation) and Sandra Lockey (EMS); **12** Tyrone McKoy (Sheriff); **15** Brandon Scott (EMS); **16** Betty Crowley (Jail); **17** Herman Gillis (E-911 Wire) and Shawnquetta Jones (Parks and Recreation); **18** David Bridgeman (Health Board) and Jannett Garcia (Health); **20** Hiram Jones (Inspections) and Paul Lemmond (Sheriff); **21** Clyde Willoughby (Sheriff) and Donna Deese (Health); **22** Karen Chavis (DSS) and Brian Krout (Parks and Recreation); **23** Robin Belperain (DSS); **25** Dr. Olivia Guzman (Health Board); **26** James Monroe (Sheriff); **27** Martin Clark (Public Works); **29** James Ellerbe (Public Works); **30** Willette Jones (DSS); **31** Nicole Yarborough (DSS).

### 2008 Board of Commissioners Meeting Schedule

January 7, 2008  
February 4, 2008  
March 10, 2008  
April 7, 2008  
May 5, 2008  
June 2, 2008  
July 7, 2008  
August 4, 2008  
September 8, 2008  
October 6, 2008  
November 3, 2008  
December 1, 2008

### 2008 Holiday Schedule

New Year's Day, January 1, 2008  
Martin Luther King Jr. Birthday, January 21, 2008  
Good Friday, March 21, 2008  
Memorial Day, May 26, 2008  
Independence Day, July 4, 2008  
Labor Day, September 1, 2008  
Veteran's Day, November 11, 2008  
Thanksgiving, November 27 and 28, 2008  
Christmas, December 24, 25 and 26, 2008

## Management series offered for aspiring beef cattle farmers

A beef cattle management series for new or aspiring cattle farmers will be held at the Scotland County Cooperative Extension Center.

Sponsored by Extension Services in Anson, Hoke, Richmond and Scotland counties, the series will begin January 17, 2008, and conclude February 9 with a field trip to local cattle farms for hands-on activities.

"This series is targeted toward farmers who are in their early careers in the cattle industry or for farmers who are seriously contemplating getting into the business," explained Extension Livestock Agent Randy Wood.

He added, "The course will help farmers who are new or relatively new to the cattle industry get a comprehensive look at proper management of a beef cattle business enterprise."

The classes will be held 7p.m. to 9 p.m. Thursdays, January 17, 24 and 31 and February 7. The field trip will be 8 a.m. to 2 p.m. Saturday, February 9. Classes are limited to 30 participants.

There is a \$25 registration fee for the classes, materials and refreshments. Contact Wood at 910-277-2422 or 910-875-3461 to register.

"In 2009 an advanced cattle management course geared toward farmers with more experience will be scheduled," Wood said.

## Post Scripts

Attending a customer service training course in Lee County November 13 were **Annie Malloy** and **Judy O'Brien**, Health; **Ann Kurtzman** and **Susan Butler**, Administration; **Holly Russell**, Parks and Recreation; **Bessie Bell**, DSS; **Pat Brown**, Register of Deeds; **Rhonda Saffel**, **Catherine Stubbs** and **Mary Heln Norton**, Tax. ☼ **J.D. Willis** was

elected Chairman and **Betty Blue Gholston** was elected Vice Chair of the Board of Commissioners for 2008.

☼ Congratulations to first-time grandmother **Sarah J McQueen**, DSS, whose granddaughter Breana Trana Taylor was born November 9. ☼ Celebrating anniversaries of

employment at EMS are **Wayne Mace**, 18 years; and **Roylin Hammond**, 14 years. ☼ Congratulations to **Gaylord Hunt**, General Services, and his wife Barbie, on the November 28 birth of their son, Grayson Hunt.



**Congratulations to the Scotland County All-Star Football team and Cheerleaders, who won the SWAC State Football Championship for 11 to 12-year-olds. Scotland County All-Stars defeated Haw River 30 to 12 December 2.**

## Introductions & transitions

Welcome to those individuals who joined Scotland County departments since October 16, 2007: **Tina Swinney**, Jail; **Roger Dial**, Public Buildings; **Ronald Ivey**, Sheriff; **Stacy Shannon**, Transportation; **Ashley Gibson**, **Henry Freeman**, **Jessica Watson** and **Joshua Byrd**, part-time with EMS; and **Ricky Allen**, part-time with Parks and Recreation.

☼

## Community support endorsed by Ben Vereen



**Actor Ben Vereen, top right, promised to support and promote the community in its endeavor to improve its retail base and attract more citizens to the area.**

**Vereen commented on his support of the community during a reception in his honor December 2 at the Chamber of Commerce. Vereen had served as Grand Marshall of the Christmas Parade earlier that day.**

**A search by Vereen for his birth mother brought the Roots actor to Laurinburg for the first time in May 2006. His mother, Essie Pearson Middleton, was born in and lived in Laurinburg before relocating to New Haven, Connecticut, where she remained until her death.**

**Since then, Vereen stays in contact with his mother's relatives who still live in Scotland County.**

**Pictured with Vereen are Commissioner and Chamber of Commerce Chairman Guy McCook, left, and Representative Garland Pierce.**

## Signs help in emergencies

Along with their personal holiday wish lists, those who work at EMS, the police, Sheriff's and fire departments, would like to see more blue reflective address signs dotting Scotland County this year.

Address signs are available at EMS for \$10. They are highly visible on both sides by day and by night.

The signs make perfect gifts any time of the year because they make homes and businesses easier to locate in times of an emergency response.



## EMStatistics

### EMS Report for November:

**Responded to** 432 Medical/  
Trauma calls

**Treated** 40 total traffic accident  
patients

**Administered** 83 wellness/blood  
pressure checks

**Sold** 12 blue address signs

### 911 Report Highlights:

**397** EMS

**285** Sheriff's Department

**221** Laurinburg Police  
Department

**62** Fire Department

**549** hang-up calls

**69** wrong numbers

**34** open line calls

**1,060** cellular calls

**1,838** total calls to 911

### Top five complaints for EMS Response

**54** sick person

**52** transfer/interfacility/  
palliative care

**40** traffic accidents

**40** falls/back injuries (traumatic)

**34** chest pain

### Weather Observations (EMS Recordings)

**Temp (high)** 79 on 11/1

**Temp (low)** 29 on 11/17

**Wind (mph)** 21 on 11/22, 26

**Rainfall (inches)** 0.3 on 11/26

*Compiled by Tommy Hatcher*

## County improves service through outreach

The County will start the new year by distributing two items of interest to the public — one encourages feedback, the other provides important information to business owners.

A customer service comment card, above right, will be available at all County offices and distributed with Inspections permits.

The card invites citizens to comment on the service they received from an employee and/or agency.

"We're hoping citizens who visit a County office for any reason will take the time to pick up and complete a comment card," said Interim County Manager/Finance Officer Kevin Patterson.

The cards ensure citizens have an opportunity to comment on the level of service they receive at any County office.

The cards will be placed next to drop boxes located in the Courthouse lobby, at EMS, in the Administration lobby and at the Health Department so citizens can complete them immediately and deposit their comments in the drop box.

In the Tax Office, an informational brochure outlines requirements to help people with business personal property tax listings. Business personal property is all property used for an income producing purpose.

The brochure also will be available at the Chamber of Commerce and at City of Laurinburg offices.

Tax Administrator Mary Helen Norton said that people who start businesses frequently don't know that they are supposed to file a list form of personal property such as computers, cash registers, office equipment and supplies.

If you would like to comment on the service you received from a Scotland County office or employee, please take a moment to fill out this form and return it to the County Manager, 507 West Courtagna Street, Laurinburg. Your input is important and will help us improve our customer service.

Name of customer: \_\_\_\_\_

County Office: \_\_\_\_\_ Name of employee (if known): \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Would you like the County Manager or a Supervisor to call you for follow-up? Yes \_\_\_\_\_ No \_\_\_\_\_

If you, please print your name and telephone number



## Myths busted about catching a cold or flu

**Colds are not caused by going outside without a coat.** The only way to catch a cold or flu is by picking up a virus. Going out into the cold without a jacket or a hat or with wet hair does nothing to facilitate transmission. We are more prone in the winter, though, because viruses are more easily shared when people are clustered together indoors.

**Flu vaccines do not cause flu.** The flu vaccine is made from killed or "inactivated" viruses, which can't be transmitted. You may experience a few side effects, which mimic the disease, such as aches and a low-grade fever.

**You don't have to be sneezed on to catch a cold or flu.** A virus can be picked up from a counter top, keyboard, telephone or other surface. Touch that doorknob or coffee cup, the virus can then survive on your hands for quite a long time. All it takes is a little wipe on your nose or eyes and whatever little bit of virus on there will spread quickly.

**Colds that linger or worsen may indicate sinusitis.** Barring an underlying condition or immune deficiency, most people can fight off a cold inside of 10 days. When symptoms such as congestion, headache and runny nose drag on, it may indicate a bacterial infection of the sinuses, or sinusitis. Occasionally someone starts to feel better and then all of a sudden they get hit again. This is known as double-worsening. When you have prolonged illness or the double-worsening pattern, it's reasonable to consider antibiotics.

**Source: msn health and fitness**

## Chairmen photo search continues

The photos of all but four former Scotland County Board chairmen have been located. The photos are on display in the Commissioners Chamber.

The most recent addition to the collection is that of Dr. J.M. Gardner, Chairman, 1933 to 1938, whose picture was found at Pate-Gardner Primary School.

Nancy Hughes, Mapping, is credited for the find. Hughes suggested that Gardner might be associated with the school. A call to Pate-Gardner confirmed that.

The earliest chairman whose photo is now in the collection is that of D.C. McNeill, 1912 to 1920.

Still needed are photos of F.B. Gibson, 1900 to 1902; John A. McKay, 1902 to 1906; William Franklin Wright, 1906 to 1908; and William G. Buie, 1908 to 1912 and 1920 to 1924.

If you or anyone you know has a photograph of any of the former chairmen, please contact Ann Kurtzman at 277-3191 or akurtzman@scotlandcounty.org.



**The photo above of Turner McKenzie, Chairman, 1968 to 1973, was submitted by his son, who still lives in the area.**