



SCOTLAND COUNTY MONTHLY

FEBRUARY 2003

A newsletter for Scotland County employees

Recreation Complex awarded \$315K

\$315,000 in federal funds have been secured for the Scotland County Recreation Complex thanks to the efforts of U.S. Representative Robin Hayes.

Notification of the \$315,000 grant comes just six weeks after the Board of Commissioners agreed to commit up to \$250,000 toward the project pending the successful review of a state Parks and Recreation Trust Fund grant proposal.

There is no match required for the \$315,000. Total cost estimate to complete Phase I of the Recreation Complex is \$1.5 million.

Hayes said the complex would be an asset to the County. He added that addressing the needs of children is a priority.

Bluegrass Gathering hours extended



A successful Scotland Bluegrass Gathering last year has brought about extended hours for the event in 2003. In addition, the Gathering this year will take place on Saturday instead of Sunday.

"We extended the hours and moved from a Sunday to Saturday so the Scotland Bluegrass Gathering Committee can begin planning the transition to a two-day event," said Parks and Recreation Director Shannon Newton. "We want people to enjoy the weekend and spend the night here."

The 2003 Gathering is March 29 from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. on the grounds of the historic John Blue House. Last year's Sunday event from 1 p.m. to 6 p.m. exceeded expectations with an estimated 600 people coming to Scotland County from all over North Carolina.

Carolina Caterwaulers, Backlash and Triple Toe Cloggers are new this year, joining last year's performers Bluegrass Experience, River Ridge, Doc Boggs and McFarland Road Bluegrass Band. Performers have been asked to play two sets this year compared to single sets last year.

Scotland High School Band Boosters will host the concession, man the gate and sell t-shirts. Traffic control and parking will be the responsibility of the Scotland County Rescue Squad.

Although the Scotland Bluegrass Gathering is free, the event is meant to be self-supporting. "We do accept donations, and the event would not be possible without the generosity of our sponsors," Newton said.

Attendees to this family event who wish to take advantage of pickin' opportunities are encouraged to bring their own instruments.

The West Boulevard expansion project will bring together under one roof all clinical services, including the West Covington Street Family Center, to create an efficient operation and more convenient health services for the client.



Expansion plans approved

The bid process has begun on the Health Department expansion now that the Board of Commissioners approved the architectural design. The expansion will bring the Family Center on Covington Street and public health services together in one location.

The architectural design calls for an additional 6,500 square-feet of floor space at the West Boulevard facility for use by WIC, the case manager, health educator and health check workers.

A conference/training room, health education room, kitchen, break room, medical storage facilities are included in the floor plan. A terrace adjoining the health education room will feature an independent entrance for evening use.

Health Director Jane Murray said the plan was reduced by about 3,000 square-feet in order to come in under budget.

The \$700,000 price tag comes at no expense to the County. The funds are part of a Medicaid escrow account set aside over several years that are restricted for Health Department use.

Lynn Anderson of Anderson Architect and Design said the exterior and windows will match those of the existing West Boulevard facility. A ramp will make the extension accessible to people with disabilities.

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Introducing the new Commissioners



With 14 years previous experience, **J. D. Willis**, Stewartsville Township, is no stranger to County government. He served from 1984 to 1998 as a County Commissioner including five years as Chairman. A retired Abbott employee, he has called Scotland County home since 1973. Aggressively promoting industrial recruitment and economic development and lowering the tax rate are critical issues for Commissioner Willis.



A lifelong native of Scotland County, **Charles "Scoofer" Jordan** ran for Commissioner of Stewartsville Township in the hopes he will make a difference in the lives of Scotland County citizens. His goal is to find ways to get the maximum amount of service work accomplished using the conservative resources at hand. Now retired, Commissioner Jordan is an engineer and was a self-employed general contractor for 25 years.



Betty Blue Gholston, Spring Hill Township, is a lifelong resident of Scotland County. A retired educator, she served for 12 years on the Wagram Board of Commissioners and 12 years on the Scotland County Board of Education. "I like finding solutions to problems, not just complaining about them," she said. She hopes to find some solutions to decreasing the unemployment rate and the crime rate and resolving budgetary deficit issues.

New Leave Policy now effective

Comp time, annual, sick and personal leave now can be taken in 15-minute increments. Change in the policy was made effective February 3 and is retroactive to the January 16 payroll period.

Where the minimum amount of annual leave was one-half day, it can now be taken in 15-minute increments. The same is true for sick leave, which once was taken in one-hour increments.

When personal leave is exhausted, according to the new policy, employees no longer need to transfer annual leave to personal leave since a 15-minute increment policy is now applicable to annual leave.

EMStatistics January

EMS Report: Responded to 363 Medical/Trauma calls. Treated 55 motor vehicle accident patients. Provided 1 stand-by medical coverage. 911 Report: Received 1,445 total calls — 299 EMS — 275 Sheriff's Department — 73 Laurinburg Police Department — 58 Fire Departments — 292 hang-up calls — 150 wrong numbers — 130 open lines calls — 623 Cellular calls — 4 Robeson County — 22 Hoke County. Report compiled by Tommy Hatcher.

In fact...

We drink very little of our drinking water. Generally speaking, less than 1% of the treated water produced by water utilities is consumed. The rest goes on lawns, in washing machines and down toilets and drains.

Family support critical in a child's education

by *Melissa C. Hopkins, Cooperative Extension*

Rebecca Stricklen knows that in order to give parents and children a continuous growth in knowledge, a parent educator must possess a wealth of current information.

Stricklen wants to bring even more information to her position as Parent Educator with the State's Cooperative Extension's Parents As Teachers program. That's why she attended the National Smart Start Conference in Greensboro in January.

"The workshops on family support were great," Stricklen said. "They helped to reinforce how important family support is in education."

She added, "I learned ways to make the program better by using the evaluation tools other programs use in home visits."

"I also learned a lot about what is done with program demographics from the Great Beginnings Program in Winston-Salem."

The 10th anniversary celebration of Smart Start, which included a speech by Gov. Mike Easley, was among the highlights of the conference.

"Governor Easley let us know he will strive to keep his promise to those of us who work with children and that he is behind us," Stricklen said.

The experience is one Stricklen would like to repeat as she continues to grow the Parents As Teachers Program in Scotland County.

The Scotland County Parents As Teachers Program is funded by a grant from the Partnership for Children and Families and is based on the vision that parents will be their child's best first teachers. The program serves families with a child between birth and five years of age.

SCOTLAND COUNTY PARKS & RECREATION

Scotland County Parks and Recreation Youth Baseball/Softball/Teeball 2003 Registration will be held March 10 to 14. Registration is open to boys who are age 5 before August 1, 2003 and will not turn 13 before August 1, 2003. Girls must be 5 before August 1, 2003 and not turn 16 before August 1, 2003.

Registration is Monday to Friday, 2:30 to 5:30 p.m. at Scotland Place Civic Center on Turnpike Road.

Other registration sites include Gibson Gym, Monday, March 10, 4 to 5:30 p.m.; Laurel Hill Community Center Gym, Tuesday, March 11, 4 to 5:30 p.m.; Murray Park, Wagram, Thursday, March 13, 4 to 5:30 p.m.

New participants must bring birth certificates and be accompanied by a parent or guardian. Returning players may call 277-2550 to sign up **during registration hours only.**

Post Scripts



DSS sponsored a Valentine Door contest as a fund-raiser. It cost \$1 to enter the contest, and each vote for best door cost 25 cents. 25 percent of the money collected goes to the DSS winner, while 75 percent will be donated to a yet-to-be named service organization.

Linda Holland's son Mark and wife Michelle are the proud parents of daughter Jacin Holland Prevatte, born January 30. Lynda McMillan's son Michael and wife Brooke are the proud parents of daughter Caitlin Michelle McMillan born January 29. Congratulations to Kitty Johnson RNC, Maternal and Child Health Supervisor, for being selected January Employee of the Month. The Board of Health welcomes new members Dr. Matthew Block and Commissioner



Bill Fitzgerald of The Morgan Company shows off his #25 donor sticker. Fitzgerald, who works for The Morgan Company, helped County employees reach their 25-pint goal during the recent Red Cross Blood Drive.

News from the Health Department: Congratulations to the **High Risk Maternity Clinic** staff for a successful state audit and to the **Immunization** staff for a recent state audit that revealed 89% of Scotland County two-year-olds are age appropriately vaccinated. Regional Dental Hygienist **Cindy Coble** recently coordinated a sealant project at Scotland Accelerated Academy where 58 children received sealants. Dr. John Slaughter volunteered his time to assist with the project. Thank you, Cindy, for making this a successful community project.

Administration, Communicable Disease and Environmental Health completed a training exercise on Botulism in Argentina, which followed the events surrounding a botulism outbreak in Argentina in 1998 and was lead by the Public Health Regional Bioterrorism Response Team. Congratulations to **Mary Hambright** on the January 25 marriage of her daughter, Jane, to Bryant Brothers.

Betty Blue Gholston. ☿ Shannon Newton attended a State Parks and Recreation Directors meeting January 29-31 at RTP. ☿ Hyder Massey and Mark Jergensen, Public Buildings, attended a day-long pesticides workshop February 6 in Carthage. ☿ In Cooperative Extension, congratulations to **Annie Clark** on the December 11 birth of daughter Sydney Elizabeth. Family and Consumer Agent **Pam Riemer** and Parent Educator **Rebecca Stricklen** attended the How to Balance Priorities and Manage Multiple Projects workshop in Fayetteville February 6. Cooperative Extension Director **Cathy Graham** taught a free grant writing workshop February 13. ☿ In Engineering, **Herman Gillis** and his wife, Elsie, treated **Doris Smart, Rachel Beach, Barbie Rollins** and **Joy Nolan** to a home-cooked Valentine's Day lunch at the Gillis home.

Notes from the County Manager

Greetings. Many of you have seen them — the bumper stickers that say "Scotland County — Home of High Taxes."

Not everybody feels that way. That's encouraging.

A group of local businessmen who are active in the community and our Area Chamber of Commerce are taking a different approach to bumper sticker messaging.



Scott Sauer

This one will reflect the positive aspects to living and working in Scotland County, and in my opinion represents the majority view of citizens who live and work here.

Yes, our tax rate is high, the result of economic conditions and funding mandates both current and historical that cannot be controlled at the local level.

The tax rate aside, people do choose to live here. People born and raised here do choose to stay.

The value of Scotland County is in its small town, community feel, where quality time can be measured in hours instead of big city minutes. It's a nice place to raise a family.

I applaud Scotland County's committed individuals who truly care and strive daily to make this a community of choice.

Nominating committee meets



Scotland County Board of Elections Director Judy Riggins hosted the nominating committee for the North Carolina Association of Directors.

The committee, who submitted officer nominations on behalf of all 100 State counties are, from left, Riggins, Nominating Committee Chairman; Kelly Hopkins, Beaufort County; Judy Mathews, Transylvania County; Margaret Shew, Davie County; and Rena Johnson, Alamance County.

Voting is scheduled for April at the Association of Directors meeting.

the **Birthday** list for **March**

1 Juliette McMillan (DSS); **2** Richard Brown (Sheriff); **4** Catherine Stubbs (Tax); **5** Judy O'Brien (Health); **6** Gaylord Hunt (DSS); **7** Raymond Moody (Parks and Recreation); **9** David Inman (DSS); **12** Larry Herring (Public Works); **13** Alice Morgan and Phyllis Clark (DSS); **14** Rachel Peguese (Health); **16** Annie Malloy (Health); **19** Ronnie Fields, Jr. (Public Buildings) and Carloyn Chavis (Public Works); **20** Gracie Rettig (Transportation) and Charles Wheeler, Jr. (Sheriff); **22** Elizabeth Walters (Register of Deeds) and Kitty Johnson (Health); **24** Augusta Roper (Public Buildings) and Linda Jones (Transportation); **25** Ricky Locklear (Health); **27** Christa Marcano (DSS); **28** Rodney Tucker (Jail); **31** Donna McQueen (Health).

Time constraints a fitness factor

Rating physical activity as important, 17 Department Heads who responded to a survey said time constraints prevented them from engaging in any physical routine on a regular basis.

The newly formed Employee Wellness Advisory Council distributed the survey in an attempt to gauge whether County workers would be receptive to participation in a worksite wellness program. The eight female and nine male respondents said whatever exercise they do engage in is less structured and is achieved through walking, yard work and household chores.

The group split when it came to deciding whether they would prefer participating in physical activity alone or with others. The majority indicated they would participate in an on-site wellness program if one was available.

Partnership good for County, interns

by *Marcus Norton, Planning Director*

The appearance of Scotland County is improving. Much of that success can be attributed to Scotland County's partnership with the St. Andrews Presbyterian College internship program.

For the past two years the Planning and Zoning Department has secured student interns to help manage a backlog of land use ordinance violations, which County leaders and citizens have described as "a detriment to the natural beauty of Scotland County."

The violations range from lack of underpinning and abandoned or burnt out mobile homes to illegal junked car lots. Recently there is renewed discussion and understanding of the importance of correcting the violations and improving the appearance of Scotland County.

The County partnership with the St. Andrews intern program provides the student intern with on-the-job training. The intern serves as a point of contact for phone calls from citizens reporting violations or from those wishing to clean up problems on their own property. Using a desk and computer at the Planning and Zoning office, the intern manages and updates the GIS database records associated with parcels where violations exist. The intern then mails violation notifications to the property owners.

In addition to filing and organizing the records, the intern mails follow-up letters and conducts inspections to monitor progress. Tapping the "internship resource" is consistent with the Scotland County objective to strengthen working relationships with St. Andrews and is especially timely given the increased awareness, need and public demand to improve the appearance of Scotland County.

More than just the economy and sales tax, good appearance of our streets, neighborhoods and businesses are directly linked to good health, lower crime and greater personal pride. There is a new realization that the quality of life offered by a place is directly linked to perception and appearance of its land use.

*Church Street
Laurinburg
circa 1908*



**104 years strong! Scotland County
February 20, 1899 - February 20 2003**

Rabbits find new homes



When the Health Department took possession of two large, white rabbits last month, finding an adoptive home for them presented a challenge.

The local Humane Society provides shelter to dogs and cats. So what happens to other animals rescued by the Health Department? "It's our responsibility to find homes for them," said Environmental Health Specialist Teddy Locklear.

A universal email sent to County employees produced results.

The rabbits are pictured above with their adoptive families, Computer Technician Tenita Bullard, left, and Janna Wegner of 16-A Sentencing with her son, R.D., and daughter, Sallie.

Introductions & transitions

Welcome employees who joined County departments since December 16: **Vernon Jackson, Jr.**, part-time in EMS; **Carlotta Rivers**, Health; **Ricky Locklear**, Animal Control Officer; **David Blalock** and **George Butler, Jr.**, Sheriff; and **Jessica Puckett**, temporary in Parks and Recreation.

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.