

# SCOTLAND COUNTY MONTHLY

FEBRUARY 2004

A newsletter for Scotland County employees

## Hayes visits complex site

U.S. Rep. Robin Hayes last week visited the recently cleared five acres of land on Turnpike Road, which is the first visible sign that work on the County recreation complex has begun.

A splash park, funded by a Housing and Urban Development grant, will be completed this June.

The City of Laurinburg will provide water, sewer and electric capabilities as an in-kind service on the acreage cleared by the County's Public Works staff. County Engineer Jim Blackwell is the project manager.

"This is the first major construction project for Parks and Recreation ever," said Director Shannon Newton. "Jim (Blackwell) is conducting it the most cost effective and efficient manner possible."

Newton said the athletic fields, parking areas and Frisbee golf will complete the outdoor component of Phase One of the project late in 2005.



*U.S. Rep. Robin Hayes, second from left, visits the site of the future Youth Recreation Complex. Laurinburg Mayor Ann Slaughter, Youth Center Task Force Chair Becca Hughes and Board of Commissioners Chairman David L. Burns, I. to*

*r., were on hand to thank Hayes for his support of the project. Hughes presented the Congressman with a Scotland County Parks and Recreation cap and t-shirt. Upon close inspection of the t-shirt, Hayes commented how pleased he was the shirt was "Made in the USA."*

## Spring Hill VFD gets new tanker



**Spring Hill Fire Department received delivery of a tanker. It is the 14th and last of the replacement apparatus for the County's volunteer fire departments. Photo by Roylin Hammond, EMS.**

Spring Hill Volunteer Fire Department last month received delivery of a 2004 tanker, which transports 1,500 gallons of water to and from fire scenes where water is not readily available.

The tanker, manufactured by the Pierce Company, is the 14th and final piece of fire apparatus furnished to the volunteer fire departments countywide as part of a replacement program that spanned eight years.

With an estimated price tag of \$163,000, the tanker features a diesel engine, automatic transmission and a 500 gallon pump. The tanker's life expectancy is about 25 years.

Spring Hill Fire Department volunteers parked the new tanker outside the Commissioners Chamber February 2, 2004 so elected officials and area citizens could inspect the new arrival just prior to the regular meeting.

## Commissioners organize search, finance committees

The Board of Commissioners has organized two separate committees — one to conduct the search for a new County Manager, the other to work closely with finance staff and Department Heads to prepare the FY 2004-2005 budget.

Commissioner Charles "Scooter" Jordan was appointed Chairman of the County Manager Search Committee, with Commissioners Sam Snowdon and J.D. Willis named as committee members.

Commissioner Clint Willis was appointed Chairman of the Finance Committee with Commissioners Jordan and Snowdon serving as committee members. Commissioner Betty Blue Gholston will act as alternate on both committees.

Department Heads seeking approval for routine financial transactions normally handled by the County Manager will now present them to Commissioner Clint Willis for review.

Chairman David Burns or Vice Chair Nancy Shelley should be contacted to address issues that require immediate attention.

Clerk to the Board Ann Kurtzman will place on the meeting agendas items that require approval or review by the governing body.

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## Bluegrass event adds band competition

A band competition with cash awards will be the newest event at the March 27 Scotland County Bluegrass Gathering, now in its third year.

"The competition will attract more people," said Parks and Recreation Director Shannon Newton. "A lot of folks out there play (bluegrass) music for pleasure and don't get the chance to show off what they do."

First prize is \$250, second place is \$100 and third, \$50.

Scotland County's McFarland Road Bluegrass Band returns as a featured performer along with new groups Wood and Steel, Carolina Connection and Evelyn Shaw and Friends. Performances cover a range of traditional and bluegrass musical selections.

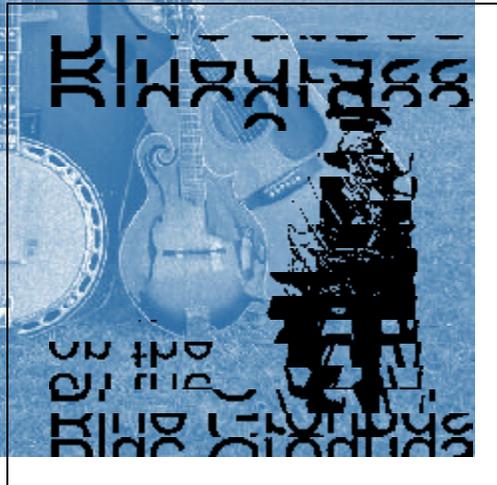
The Scotland High School Band Boosters will sponsor the food concession. Newton said, "This day is all about music in the purest sense of the word. The Band Boosters concession will help raise money to promote musical activities in the high school."

A FUNd Run, sponsored by Scotland Memorial Hospital, coincides with the Bluegrass event. The 10K/5K hospital fundraiser will end at the John Blue House grounds in time for race participants to rest up and enjoy the first bluegrass performance of the day.

WLNC Radio along with many local businesses make the Bluegrass Gathering possible through their sponsorship. WLNC also is sponsor for the first prize band competition award.

Just as in the previous two years, the event is free and open to the public. Donations are accepted.

Newton, Fairley Guest, Jim Norfleet, Al Blades and Fred Fox are on the Bluegrass Gathering Committee.



## Post Scripts

The County received an outstanding report from the State Solid Waste Division inspectors and the highest rating of any transfer station in the region. The County facility is one of only two in the region which passed the inspection. Neighboring facilities have been referred to the County's transfer station to see the proper method for operation. "I am extremely proud of our Public Works Director, **Steve Edge** and our **Solid Waste staff** for their efforts in making us one of the best trained and operated solid waste facilities in the State," said County Engineer Jim Blackwell.

⌘ Congratulations to **Teresa Gorden** with DSS on the February 2 birth of her grandson,

Cameron Gage Gorden to Allison and Eric Gorden of Laurinburg. ⌘ Congratulations to **Robert Bowen**, Administration, on the February 6 birth of grandson Caleb Tristen Katekovich. ⌘ In Health Department news:

**Betsey Ellerbe's** sister, Isabelle Ocean, received the SUMMIT award from Scotland County Schools. A teacher at Covington Street School, Ocean was nominated for the honor by her peers. **Mary Cox's** daughter, Christina, is a finalist for the PARK scholarship at North Carolina State University. This is a highly competitive, full scholarship based upon character, academic performance, leadership and community involvement. Christina's final interview was scheduled for late February. We wish her

the best of luck. Congratulations to Translator/Processing Assistant **Janie Ruiz** for being selected January Employee of the Month. Best of luck to **Courtney Carmichael** RN in her future endeavors. ⌘ EMS Director **Roylin Hammond** was presented with an EMS Systems Certificate by the State, the result of the successful review and approval of the EMS System Proposal for Scotland County. The lengthy proposal (about 500 pages) outlines how the area EMS would provide for emergency care of its citizens.

## Morrison wins at the Gift of Life

Agricultural Extension Agent David Morrison might have paid for his Valentine gift basket in blood, but it was worth it. Morrison was one of 29 donors who helped Scotland County reach its goal during the February 12 Red Cross Blood Drive. Names of all the donors were entered in a raffle for the Valentine gift basket.



## Roberts thanked



Paramedic Barry Roberts was recognized for 32 years of EMS service — 27 with Guilford County and 5 with Scotland County. Roberts is the first person to retire from Scotland County EMS.

## 13 earn certificates

Eddie Carmichael, Scotland County Swine Producer, received a Certificate for Operator license from Tiffanee Conrad, Scotland County Livestock Agent. Thirteen Certified Operators attended the class on Sludge Assessment and Calibration.



# Do's and Don'ts : A brief how-to guide on the best use of 9-1-1

by Tommy Hatcher, EMS Dispatcher



*Before dialing 9-1-1, become familiar with what is considered an emergency and what is not considered an emergency.*

*The information that follows provides do's and don'ts for 9-1-1 users as well as some helpful advice and guidelines.*

*Pictured is the Scotland County PSAP (public safety answering point).*

## **Do not program 9-1-1 into your auto-dial telephone.**

You won't forget the number. Programming it invites accidental dialing of the number. **Do not** dial 9-1-1 to "test" your phone or the system. This needlessly burdens the dispatchers and the system with non-emergency calls.

## **Dial 9-1-1 only for an emergency.**

An emergency is any serious medical problem (chest pain, seizure, bleeding), any type of fire (business, car, building), or any life-threatening situation (fights, person with weapons, etc.). Most jurisdictions also urge citizens to use 9-1-1 to report crimes in progress, whether or not a life is threatened.

## **Do not dial 9-1-1 for a non-emergency.**

Instead, dial the agency's listed 7-digit non-emergency telephone number. A non-emergency incident is a property damage accident, break-in to a vehicle when suspect is gone, theft of property (when suspect is gone), vandalism (when suspect is gone), panhandlers, intoxicated persons who are not disorderly or cars blocking the street or alleys.

## **Do not pick up the telephone and put it down if you don't hear a dial tone.**

That ties up the telephone network and delays obtaining a line. Stay on the line until you hear the dial tone. If you hear a fast busy, all circuits are busy. Try again later. If you reach a recording, the telephone system is not available for your call. Try again later.

## **If you dialed 9-1-1 in error, do not hang up.**

Instead, stay on the line and explain to the dispatcher that you dialed by mistake and that you do not have an emergency. If you hang up, a dispatcher will call back to confirm that there is no emergency. If you don't answer, a police officer or deputy must be dispatched to confirm that you are OK. This will needlessly take resources away from genuine emergencies.

## **Briefly describe the type of incident you are reporting.**

For example, "I'm reporting an automobile fire," or "I'm reporting an unconscious person," or "I'm reporting a shoplifter." Then stay on the line with the dispatcher. In some cases, the dispatcher will keep you on the line while the emergency units are responding in order to ask additional questions or to obtain ongoing information.

## **Let the call-taker ask you questions.**

They have been trained to ask questions that will help

prioritize the incident, locate it and speed an appropriate response. Your answers should be brief and responsive. Remain calm and speak clearly. If you are not in a position to give full answers to the call-taker (the suspect is nearby), stay on the phone, and the dispatcher will ask you questions that can be answered "yes" or "no."

## **Be prepared to describe your location and the location of the emergency.**

Although an Enhanced 9-1-1 system will display your telephone number and location, the dispatcher **must** confirm the displayed address or might ask you for more specific location information about the victim or suspects.

Cellular callers must be able to describe a location so emergency units can respond. Be aware of your current city or town, address, highway and direction, nearby cross-streets or interchanges, or other geographic points of reference.

Cellular 9-1-1 calls are frequently routed to a central PSAP (public safety answering point) that could be many miles from your location. Be prepared to give the dispatcher your complete location — city or town, address or location, inside or outside, what floor or room, etc.

## **Be prepared to describe any vehicles involved in the incident.**

This includes the color, year, make, model and type of vehicle. If the vehicle is parked, the dispatcher will need to know the direction it's facing. If the vehicle is moving or has left, the dispatcher will need to know in what direction.

## **Be patient as the dispatcher asks you questions.**

While you are answering the dispatcher's questions, he/she is entering or writing down the information. If you are reporting an emergency, most likely a response is being made **while** you are still on the line with the dispatcher.

## **Listen to the dispatcher's instructions for assistance if you are in danger yourself.**

The dispatcher might tell you to leave the building, secure yourself in a room or take other action to protect yourself.

## **Do not hang up until the call-taker tells you to do so.**

Follow any instructions the dispatcher gives you, such as meeting the officers at the door or flagging down the firefighters at the curb.

## 4-Hers build confidence at public speaking event



**Back row, l. to r., Tequan McPhatter, Shanice Daniels, Ashton Carroll, Cherrell Brown, Brittany York, Clay Brooks, Tequisa McPhatter. Front row, l. to r., Brandon Edge, Brooke Hunter, and Mary Tardif. Not pictured, D'Angelo Byrd.**

Public speaking is something many people shy away from, but 17 members of the Scotland County 4-H program made their way to the podium recently to deliver speeches they wrote themselves.

"We're pleased that our youth are so willing to speak before a group," said Sharon English, Extension Agent, 4-H Youth Development. "The 4-Hers worked hard on their speeches during club meetings, and I know it was an exciting night for all of them."

Junior Division Judges Lynn Poe, Kathy Lockey and Betty Thomas named Mary Lauren Tardif first place winner in the Junior I division and Brooke Hunter first place winner in the Junior II division. Junior I and Junior II second place winners were D'Angelo Byrd and Brandon Edge. Junior II third place winner was Shanice Daniels.

Senior Division Judges Pam Hill, Lillian Boger and Jackie Lowery named Clay Brooks first place winner in the Senior I division and Brittany York first place winner in the Senior II division. Senior I and Senior II Division second place honors went to Cherrell Brown and Tequisa McPhatter. Senior I and Senior II Division third place honors were awarded to Ashton Carroll and Tequan McPhatter.

First place winners will represent Scotland County at 4-H District Activity Day on June 17 in Chatham County. The annual event for registered 4-Hers provides an opportunity for youth to develop speaking skills and vocabulary through the process of writing and organizing a speech. It also helps the youth realize the value of appearance and presentation before an audience.

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.

## the Birthday list for March

1 Juliet McMillan (DSS); 2 Richard Brown (Sheriff); 4 Catherine Stubbs (Tax); 5 Judy O'Brien (Health) and Hinton Covington (Transportation); 6 Gaylord Hunt (DSS); 7 Ray Moody (Parks and Recreation); 9 David Inman (DSS); 12 Larry Herring (Public Works) and June Hunt (EMS); 13 Phyllis Clark and Alice Morgan (DSS); 14 Rachel Peguese (Health); 16 Annie Malloy (Health); 17 James Bullard (Public Works) and Matthew Norris (EMS); 19 Carolyn Chavis (Public Works) and Ronnie Fields (Public Buildings); 20 Charles Wheeler (Sheriff) and Gracie Rettig (Transportation); 22 Kitty Johnson (Health); 24 Augusta Roper (Public Buildings), Linda Jones (Transportation) and Elizabeth Shutt (DSS); 25 Ricky Locklear (Public Buildings); 27 Christa Marcano (DSS); 28 Rodney Tucker (Sheriff); 31 Donna McQueen (Health).

## Baby Bucks incentives program promotes healthy prenatal care

Scotland County mothers are being rewarded for doing something good for themselves and their infants through a program called Baby Bucks.

Funded by the State, Baby Bucks encourages women to get earlier and better prenatal care to ensure the birth of a healthy baby.

Clients who keep their pregnancy counseling and prenatal appointments, enroll in a variety of health-related classes and allow for home visits are rewarded with dollars called Baby Bucks. Six months into the program, Maternal Child Health Supervisor Kitty Johnson has seen an increase in participation.



**The Baby Bucks store offers a range of infant needs from bibs to diapers to cribs.**

Incentive dollars can be cashed in weekly at the Baby Bucks store, which is open the first Tuesday of each month from 9 to 11 a.m. at the Family Health Center.

Baby Bucks can help a client purchase a variety of infant needs from bibs to diapers to baby blankets and gowns to larger items such as infant seats, high chairs and cribs.

"The good part is the money for the program comes from the State, and it doesn't cost the County or the taxpayer anything to support this," said Johnson.

She added, "Our clients get better prenatal care because they keep their appointments, and they are receiving lots of valuable information. The Maternal Health team also is provided with the opportunity to monitor those clients who have high-risk conditions."

Client participation in this strictly voluntary program has increased through word of mouth.

Johnson added that when babies are born healthy it results in fewer doctor visits and hospital bills where the County contribution to Medicaid factors in.

"It is our hope that all of this will bring about the birth of healthy babies," Johnson said. "This is one program that is working and has taken hold."

### EMStatistics

Compiled by Tommy Hatcher

#### EMS Report for January:

Responded to 405 Medical/Trauma calls.

Treated 69 motor vehicle accident patients.

Made 3 departmental presentations

Provided 2 medical coverages

#### 911 Report Highlights:

Received 1,509 total calls

365 EMS

286 Sheriff's Department

101 Laurinburg Police Department

67 Fire Department

327 hang-up calls

111 wrong numbers

67 open line calls

653 cellular calls.