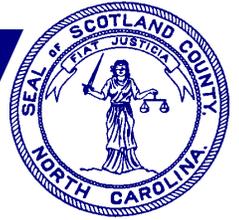


Scotland County

Monthly



FEBRUARY 2009

A newsletter for Scotland County employees

Security upgrade at Courthouse protects personnel, resources

A security upgrade at the Courthouse has provided an extra layer of protection for personnel. It also eliminates the inconvenience staff and attorneys experienced waiting in long lines to gain entrance to the building when court is in session.

Monitors are located throughout the Courthouse — in hallways and in offices.

“Everyone who walks in the Courthouse is videoed,” said Sheriff Shep Jones. “We can watch anything we want to watch at anytime. The videos are viewed and monitored from the Sheriff’s Office.”

Two metal detectors at the main entrance to the Courthouse sound an alarm indicating something on a person should be investigated.

Monitors also are located in the Tax Office, Register of Deeds and Clerk of Court. Jones explained, “It makes people here feel safe, especially where money transactions are taking place.”

Training enhances customer service, hones leadership skills

Two specialized courses will be offered to County personnel on a regular basis.

Law enforcement staff will take an Interpersonal Leadership course led by Chief Deputy Steve Smith. All other County personnel will take a half-day customer service class led by several training teams. Both courses were launched earlier this month.

The Customer Service training got its trial run with Department Heads and Supervisors attending the class.

Human Resources Manager Susan Butler and a group of volunteers used the same customer service session developed by Lee County.

The Lee County course, “The Case of the Missing Customer Service,” won a State award for its originality and effectiveness.

Butler and the team of
see Classes, page 2



All videos are viewed, monitored and stored in the Sheriff’s Office.

Speaking specifically about records in the Register of Deeds, Jones added, “The cameras make sure we have a good picture, and it prevents documents from going missing.”

Attorneys and employees gain quick access to the Courthouse using a swipe card at another door on the Cronly Street side of the building.

Increased security measures protect the Magistrates. Previously, an unlocked back door to the Courthouse left the Magistrates vulnerable.

Now, anyone wishing to see the Magistrate must enter at the Courthouse main entrance before 5 p.m.

A camera and a speaker phone located at the back entrance to the Courthouse is for people who have business with the Magistrate after 5 p.m.

Jones added, “The camera at the Magistrate’s office protects officers from potential lawsuits.”

State of the local economy challenging but resilient

Commissioner Guy McCook and County Manager Kevin Patterson were among guests speakers at a State of the County event hosted by the Chamber of Commerce.

Both Patterson and McCook conceded that challenges lay ahead. They also stressed that good things are happening, too.

McCook said that Omni Systems and Gryphon Group both selected the County as a place in which to do business.

Omni, a toilet paper manufacturer, will bring in 60 jobs while the Gryphon Group, a military training operation, promises 70 jobs.

McCook said the challenges facing the County are the result of closings, a lack of investment by local citizens, high unemployment, poverty and an untrained workforce.

Yet the Commissioners over the past two fiscal years lowered the tax rate eight cents from \$1.10 to \$1.02.

McCook said there is intent to reduce the tax rate to under \$1.00, thanks to Medicaid relief and the work of local legislators on behalf of the County.

see Economy, page 2



Economic Development Director Greg Icard uses a stick figure to demonstrate customer-friendly body language.

Classes emphasize positives of leadership, friendly service

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volunteers participated in the Lee County course. Several months later, Lee County staff traveled to Scotland County to train the training teams and share their customer service materials.

Three training teams will conduct customer service sessions monthly on a rotating basis until all County employees have participated. After that, customer service sessions will be offered quarterly to new employees.

Team I members are Ann Kurtzman, Administration; Jan-Marie Mathews, DSS; Pat Brown, Register of Deeds; and Rhonda Saffel and Catherine Stubbs, Tax.

Team II members are Susan Butler, Administration; Holly Russell, Parks and Recreation; Wanda Britt and Gracie Rettig, Transportation; and Rachel Beach, Inspections.

Team III members are Bessie Bell, DSS; Lynda McMillan and Annie Malloy, Health; and Debbie Sandlin and Mike Edge, EMS.

Tenita Bullard, General Services; Leon Gyles, Library; and Mary Helen Norton, Tax; will provide alternate support.

Butler will send a list of dates via email to all employees so they can select one that works in their schedule.

Chief Deputy Smith developed the Interpersonal Leadership Program that he offered to a dozen Sheriff's Office and Detention



Detention Center staff Cpl. Amanda Patterson, Sgt. Sandra Miller (blindfolded), Cpl. James Nichols and Cpl. Roger Alford (blindfolded) take part in an exercise on trust. Miller and Alford depend on Patterson and Nichols to navigate them safely down a hallway without injury or incident.

Center middle management staff. The class, held at St. Andrews Presbyterian College, is designed to achieve three objectives:

To provide an opportunity for Sheriff's personnel to objectively and positively examine their performance in their work environment.

To quickly gain an understanding of the fundamentals of interpersonal communications.

To equip each person with the knowledge required to meaningfully connect with other employees, their supervisors and the general public.

Collaborative effort brings improvements to Legion Park

When Post Commander Dan Skamperle requested that improvements be made to historic Legion Park, it brought a community together for the cause.

The County, City and School System all agreed to work cooperatively to upgrade Legion Park, a centrally located facility used for youth athletics such as baseball and football and other family-friendly events.

The schools replaced the baseball fencing and plan to repair the bleachers. The County is retrofitting a doublewide classroom building donated by the School System for restrooms, changing area and storage.

The City of Laurinburg will donate labor to install new water and sewer lines and grade the parking lots.

American Legion Post 50 is repairing and upgrading the press box, perimeter wall and Veterans Service building.

Legion Park, built by the WPA (Work Projects Administration), has been used for baseball since the late 1940s. The Philadelphia Phillies Minor League played there in the 1950s.



Post 50 Commander Dan Skamperle looks out over the soon-to-be-improved Legion Park.

State of County economy discussed at Chamber event

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Patterson said Scotland County's February unemployment hit its highest point in nearly 30 years. Patterson said when recessions hit the nation in 1992 and in 2001, there also was a spike in unemployment.

Patterson predicted the unemployment scenario might not change for another year and the rate still might tick a little higher.

He added that plant closing brought about a decline in the County's labor force because displaced workers retired or relocated. Patterson added that youth from the area are looking to pursue professional careers elsewhere.

Patterson said on the positive side, the County is working with four active leads — large manufacturing operations considering locating their operations to Scotland County.

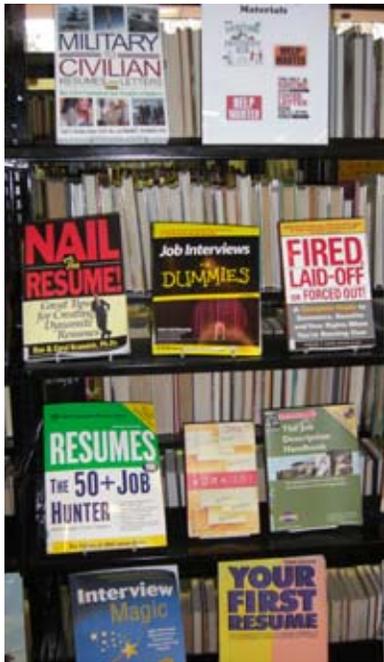
Patterson briefly discussed the \$6.1 billion stimulus package earmarked for North Carolina.

Funding for transportation is limited to bridge construction. Patterson did not see an impact to the County in that area.

Food Stamps allowances increased and unemployment benefits were extended, the income from which will not be taxable. Health insurance subsidies will be available to the unemployed. Schools will receive additional funds for operations but not for capital projects.

Patterson said potential construction grants might become available, which would allow the County to improve its emergency operations center, senior center and obtain funds for upgrades at Laurinburg-Maxton Airport.

Reference books focus on job hunt



The Library has a collection of employment and resumé building reference books to help people enhance their job hunting skills. Library Director Leon Gyles said with unemployment in the County high, the Library can do its part by providing the tools people need to help them transition successfully to their next job.

the Birthday list for March

1 Juliet McMillan (DSS Board) and Bud McAllister (Inspections); 2 Marc Brown (Sheriff); 4 Catherine Stubbs (Tax) and Randall Compton (Parks and Recreation); 5 Judy O'Brien (Health); 6 Latoya Williams (Sheriff), Nancy Pittman (DSS) and Gaylord Hunt (General Services); 7 Raymond Moody (Parks and Recreation), Felisa McKeithan (Transportation) and Jeffrey Cooke (Sheriff); 8 Hattie McCallum (DSS Board); 11 Angela Alford (Parks and Recreation); 12 June Hunt (EMS); 13 Alice Morgan (DSS) and Phyllis Clark (Health); 14 Rachel Peguese (Health) and Mary White (EMS); 16 Annie Malloy (Health), Jackie Scott (Parks and Recreation) and Malcolm McClellan (Jail); 17 Dixie Whelpley (Revaluation); 18 Ronald Morrissey (Parks and Recreation); 20 Gracie Rettig (Transportation); 22 Kitty Johnson (Health); 24 Rhonda Cox and Libby Shutt (DSS), Mary Helen Norton (Tax), Kemp Roper (Public Buildings) and Linda Jones (Transportation); 27 Solomon Baxley (EMS); 28 Rodney Tucker (Sheriff).



Just behind Sheriff Shep Jones and his wife Sonya is the Capitol draped with American flags for the 2009 Inauguration. Earlier, Sheriff Jones met then-presidential-candidate Barack Obama at a campaign event.

Sheriff a participant in Inauguration history

Sheriff Shep Jones and his wife, Sonya, faced frigid temperatures and spent hours waiting at security checkpoints on their journey to witness history.

Sheriff Jones, who obtained the tickets from U.S. Representative Larry Kissell, shared his impressions and experiences at the inauguration of President Barack Obama.

How close were you to the the Inauguation ceremony?

Sheriff Jones: We had tickets on the Capitol grounds where the ceremony took place. We were actually right behind the people who were seated with the President, perhaps 125 yards from where he was speaking.

How crowded was it?

Sheriff Jones: It was extremely crowded. Pictures did not do it justice. We got up at 3 a.m. to take the Metro into the city. At the Metro, there were tens of thousands of people already there. You had to stand in line a couple of hours to get the Metro to Washington. Once in Washington, we had to stand in line an additional four hours to get to where our tickets were.

What was the level of security like?

Sheriff Jones: It was extremely tight. Every single person was searched. Everything they had was searched. I went through about six different levels of security before I was able to get to where I was located.

Was it worth it?

Sheriff Jones: No question about it. Any time you can personally witness history, it's something you can talk about generations down the road. It was a day I will never forget. There were a lot of emotions, a lot of tears were shed, a lot of hugs and handshakes. A lot of emotion was happening that day.

EMStatistics

EMS Report for January:

Responded to 364 Medical/Trauma calls

Treated 26 total traffic accident patients

Administered 70 wellness/blood pressure checks

Sold 7 blue address signs

911 Report Highlights:

328 EMS

296 Sheriff's Department

267 Laurinburg Police Department

36 Fire Department

936 hang-up calls

78 wrong numbers

48 open line calls

1,712 cellular calls

2,278 total calls to 911

Top five complaints for EMS Response

65 sick person (specific diagnosis)

59 breathing problems

27 falls/back injuries (traumatic)

26 traffic accidents

25 transfer/interfacility/palliative care

Weather Observations

(EMS Recordings)

Temp (high) 70 on 1/28

Temp (low) 15 on 1/17

Wind (mph) 34 on 1/7

Rainfall (inches) .45 on 1/6

Compiled by Tommy Hatcher

News of Note

Blood Drive short of goal

The County-sponsored Blood Drive February 5 fell eight units short of its 30-unit goal. Human Resources Manager Susan Butler said 23 people presented and 22 units were collected. Location for the Red Cross Blood Drive was changed from 507 West Covington Street to the Government Complex on West Boulevard where most of the employees work. Butler said the number of units might have been down because a lot of people were out sick and five of the regular donors were out of town at a conference.

Elected officials directory is online

A 2009 directory of federal, State and local elected officials is available online at www.scotlandcounty.org. Just click on "cities and towns" or "elected officials." The directory, in pdf format, also provides contact information for local school board members and lists frequently called numbers.

Agency plans healthy extravaganza

March is National Nutrition Month and the Health Department will celebrate with a Salad Extravaganza luncheon March 4. Only healthy recipes will be included on the luncheon table. That means plenty of greens and colorful, crisp vegetables. Health Educator Kathie Cox said the Health Department will lead by example and promote healthy eating at the workplace and in the community.

Immunization assessment rate is up

The Health Department's Immunization Assessment rate for children 24 to 35-months increased from 91 percent in 2007 to 94 percent for 2008. The assessment measures the number of children immunized with the 4:3:1:3:3:1 series by 24 months of age. The numbers represent 4 DTaP, 3 Polio, 1 MMR, 3 Hib, 3 Hep B and 1 Varicella vaccinations. Comparative to the statewide rate of 86 percent for local health departments, Scotland County Health Department has achieved and surpassed the State's Healthy Carolinians 2010 Health Goals.

The Big Shred is coming

Cooperative Extension and ECA are preparing for the County's first-ever Community Shred Day Saturday, March 21, 10 a.m. to 2 p.m., in the Scotland High School parking lot. Limit is four bags/boxes or 100 pounds of paper per person. Scotland County citizens and those living in surrounding counties are invited to participate. Cooperative Extension will rely on the assistance of volunteers, and there is a need for an additional 10 to 15 more volunteers. Duties include assisting with sign-in, helping people, if necessary, to get their boxes/bags to the truck, distribution of literature and set-up/clean-up. Volunteers can help in one-hour increments or for the entire four hours. Call 910-277-2422 to volunteer.

New driveway installed at EMS



EMS will get a new driveway/wash pad, thanks to the help of County Engineer Jim Blackwell and his Public Works staff and equipment.

EMS Director Roylin Hammond said, "EMS washes vehicles every single day, which results in erosion in the County's parking lot."

Hammond added, "The new driveway/wash pad will have a drain in the lower end to divert wash water into the sewage system,

which will prevent any future damage to the parking lot."

Pictured, Jim Blackwell, right, and Glenn Lockey, Public Works, grade the driveway at EMS.

Post Scripts

Leon Gyles, Library, was the guest speaker at the Men's Breakfast Group of Trinity Presbyterian Church and also at a meeting of Scotland County Democratic Women. On both

occasions, Gyles discussed recent Library accomplishments and plans for its future. ✂ Celebrating employment anniversaries at EMS are **David Flowers**, three years; **John Deese**, two years and **Chris Lee**, one year. ✂ Captain **Mitch Johnson** and Detective **James Peques**, Sheriff, presented a Gang Awareness inservice for Health Department and DSS home visiting staff. ✂ The office of Public Health Preparedness and Response conducted a monitoring review February 3 for Bioterrorism. Subrecipient Grants Monitor Nikki Marshall lead the review. **Tina Clark**, RN, Preparedness and Response Supervisor, and **Betty Smith**, Fiscal Management Coordinator, provided activities, plans and accounting records for performance and compliance. The audit resulted in only one recommendation. No deficiencies were noted. The **Child Fatality Prevention Team** conducted a public awareness campaign and distributed information packets on *Back to Sleep* and *No Co-Sleeping* to local provider offices and outreach clinics. An educational poster and information on ordering free materials were included in the packet. Offices were encouraged to schedule an inservice training for staff on *Back to Sleep* guidelines provided by Health Department trained staff members. ✂ **Rebecca Snyder**, Heath, thanks everyone for their prayers, cards and gifts of donated hours during her time of need. "I cannot find words adequate to express my feelings of gratitude to everyone. A special thanks to those who chose to donate their time so I would not go through the Christmas season void of income. Scotland County employees are the most caring and giving persons I have ever had the privilege to work with. You are my extended family, I miss you all and look forward to returning to work real soon."

Introductions & transitions

Welcome to those individuals who joined Scotland County departments since December 16, 2008: **Keith Deese**, Sheriff; **Benjamin Hunt**, **Bruce Clark**, **Donald Locklear** and **Joshua Hayes**, part-time with EMS.

Our condolences to **Bobby Horne**, Solid Waste Enforcement Officer, on the death of his brother-in-law, John Randy Lewis; to **Willie Hunt**, Public Works, on the death of his sister; to **Bud McAllister**, Inspections, on the January 27 passing of his mother, Gladys McAllister. **Margaret Uncapher** and **Virginia Cowey**, Library, lost their father, Kelly Cowey. His granddaughter is **Tracy Ansley**, Sheriff. Our condolences go out to all the family members.