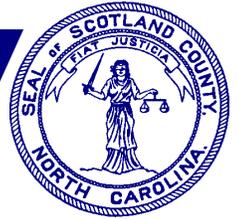


# Scotland County

## Monthly



JANUARY 2009

A newsletter for Scotland County employees



**Commissioner Bob Davis, not deterred by snow and a threat of icy roads, leaves 507 West Covington Street as he continues to run errands January 20.**

## Snow, ice freeze County operations

County operations got off to a late start Inauguration Day after freezing rain and snow blanketed the region in the early morning.

Opening for most County departments was delayed by two hours. With the threat of more freezing rain coming later January 20, most offices also closed one hour early at 4 p.m. January 21 opening was again delayed by two hours.

The last time snow and ice interrupted normal County operations was January 2004 causing a two-day closure of most County offices.

Whenever there is a question of closure or delay in opening as a result of inclement weather, employees are encouraged to call the County's main number, 910-277-2406, for a recorded update.

## Community Shred Day a solution to discarding personal documents

Paperwork that contains personal information too risky to just throw out and too bulky to keep can be a real headache.

If you have boxes of old paperwork in your home that need to be discarded or your home desk is cluttered with outdated papers, then the solution is at hand, according to the Scotland County Cooperative Extension.

For those who have mounds of old receipts, forms, documents and financial statements piling up at home that needs to be disposed of, bring it to Scotland County's first-ever Community Shred Day March 21. Best of all, the shredding service is free to individuals.

The Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI) estimates that between 500,000 and 700,000 people fall victim annually to identity theft.

The consequences of identity theft can be astonishing. Victims can spend countless hours closing accounts, opening new ones and correcting credit records.

"I am certain there are many people such as myself that have accumulated a lot of paperwork over the years," said Sharon English, Family and Consumer Agent with Scotland County Cooperative Extension.

"With identity theft one of the fastest growing crimes in the United States, we wanted to offer our citizens an opportunity to dispose of their information safely."

[see Shred, page 2](#)

## 401k investment plan changes on the way

The dates for the transition of investment options for the NC 401k have been extended to give plan members more time to examine their choices and make a decision.

The deadline to opt out of the fund mapping, the transfer of plan assets, has been moved from January 16 to 4 p.m. Friday, February 27, 2009. The transfer of plan assets has been moved from January 23 to March 6, 2009.

### Important Dates

**\$ Deadline to opt out of fund mapping is 4 p.m. February 27**

**\$ Transfer of plan assets, called fund mapping, is March 6**

**\$ All new contributions to both plans will be invested in the new funds by March 9**

Kelly Martindale, a representative for the State retirement plan, said employees need not do anything unless they choose to opt out. "It's like moving apples to apples. There would be no negative affect in your account."

"The funds will map over into similar funds with the same investment strategies. All new contributions will go into the new funds," said Martindale.

Martindale said although the State will stay with Prudential, there now will be 11 investments choices rather than nine. The two new investment options include International Index Funds and the Global Fund, both added because of numerous client requests.

The other positive change is service fees are lower, which allows more for investments.

Martindale added there is an "opt out" feature for clients who wish to keep their funds in the old investments. "The funds will become frozen and will continue to grow as they perform," she explained. Those who opt out will be charged an additional fee.

[see 401k, page 4](#)

## 911 call centers face challenges as cellular phone use rises

EMS responded to 49 fewer calls in 2008 (4,664) compared to 2007 (4,713). The single largest reduction was patients from traffic accidents, 448 in 2008 compared to 496 in 2007. EMS also saw a 24 percent decrease in the total number of traffic accidents it responded to in 2008 (268) compared to 2007 (355).

EMS Director Roylin Hammond said, "We believe this may be a result of several safety improvements that NC DOT made on Highway 74 in the Laurel Hill area and to changes at the five-points intersection on Highway 501 North."

Total 911 call volume for 2008 (25,835) increased almost 2,400 calls from 2007 (23,480). Of that total number, 17,494 calls were from cell phones in 2008 compared to 14,762 in 2007.

Hammond said, "Unfortunately, 8,363 of those total calls were hang ups and all had to be verified. That reflects an increase in more than 1,300 hang ups over the previous year."

"We attribute much of this to the increasing presence of inactive cellular phones, which have no access to the conventional cellular system but can still access the 911 system," Hammond explained. "Being inactive, these phones have no assigned number to call back, nor can they be located on the GIS system."

He added, "When people hang up, we have no way to re-contact or locate the caller. Inactive phones become a problem for all 911 centers."

The number of 911 calls requesting EMS declined by about 50 calls while requests for the Sheriff's Department and the Police Department each increased by more than 600 calls.

Requests for the fire department decreased from 722 total 911 calls in 2007 to only 583 total 911 requests in 2008.

Hammond said, "Requests for other departments, agencies or 911 call centers in other counties were running about same as in previous years. We expect to continue to see the number of cellular 911 calls increase in 2009. We also expect to see more changes in the VOIP market and wireless world that will put even greater demand on all 911 call centers including ours."

Reasons for Call	2007	2008	Difference
Hang Ups	7027	8363	1336
Scotland County EMS	4713	4664	(49)
Sheriff's Department	3484	4091	607
Laurinburg Police Department	2853	3472	619
Wrong Number	1002	1055	53
Children on Phone	682	473	(209)
Laurinburg Fire Department	722	583	(139)
Open Line	572	665	93
Information	723	705	(18)
NC Highway Patrol	359	264	(95)
Hoke County Communications	296	325	29
Robeson County Communications	306	309	3
Marlboro County Communications	204	254	50
Test Calls	207	208	1
EMS Unit to SMH-ER	89	104	15
Other (prank calls, static on line)	61	102	41
Richmond County Communications	45	49	4
Animal Control	53	77	24
Poison Control	23	15	(8)
Maxton Police Department	33	28	(5)
Moore County Communications	26	29	3
<b>Total</b>	<b>23480</b>	<b>25835</b>	

## Destroy personal documents during County's big shred event

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That's why Cooperative Extension and members of Extension and Community Association (ECA) will sponsor a Community Shred Day 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. Saturday, March 21.

The event will be held at the Scotland High School parking lot at 1000 West Church Street.

The service is free of charge for individuals only. The 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.

Shred-It, a company that specializes in secure document

management will have a truck on hand to shred personal documents.

"We will receive material to shred until 2 p.m. or the truck is full, whichever comes first," English said. "We hope that everyone will mark this date on their calendar and take advantage of this wonderful opportunity to safely clear their homes of old paperwork, especially as it is offered at no cost."

For more information on the Shred-It event please contact Sharon English at Scotland County Cooperative Extension at (910) 277-2422.

## Voter turnout figures strong

Nationally the 2008 Presidential Election hit historic high notes, and Scotland County was part of the huge wave of voters who turned out to cast their ballots.

"We had a total of 23,082 registered voters and a total of 14,301 to cast a ballot, which was a 61.96 percent voter turnout," said Elections Director Dell Parker. The 14,301 includes 8,968 who voted early.

Parker added, "4,739 people actually voted at their assigned precincts on Election Day but we also had 79 provisionals and 515 mail in absentees."

Parker said that 11,048 ballots were cast in 2004, which is a difference of 3,253 votes.

Scotland County voters cast ballots electronically on M100 voting machines, which were used for the first time during the 2006 primary. Laptops that were used during the One Stop earlier voting period were not used until the 2006 general election.

The Board of Elections employed a total of 122 people on Election Day and 12 people during the One Stop earlier voting period.

As for future equipment needs, Elections will consider adding an extra laptop at the One Stop location and putting in a Verified Ballot Transaction Scanner at each precinct.

## Card users save at pharmacies

The number of prescriptions purchased using the NACo-sponsored Prescription Drug Discount Card program increased sharply from 252 in December 2007 to 434 in December 2008.

The NACo program in cooperation with Caremark offered the best prices on 238 prescriptions in December 2008.

Since Scotland County opted to participate in the Prescription Drug Discount Card program in September 2006, 6,968 prescriptions have been processed at participating pharmacies for a total price savings of nearly \$64,500 for customers.



The number of people using the the discount prescription card, however, remains relatively unchanged at about 120.

County Manager Kevin Patterson said the number of participants seems to have stalled. He urged County employees to do all they could to spread the word about the program and the savings it could offer and to distribute the

prescription cards throughout the community.

There are other positives to using the card other than the savings it brings customers.

The card is free, and there is no registration process. All pharmacies in Scotland County accept the card. The card may be used at any time a prescription is not covered by insurance. There are no restrictions and no limits to how many times the card may be used.

Cards and cardboard display cases can be picked up at 507 West Covington Street. A limited number of Prescription Drug Discount Cards in Spanish also are available.

## News of Note

### Commissioners reinstate Fair Share option

The Board of Commissioners reinstated the Fair Share program to encourage employees to participate in the United Way Campaign. Fair Share as a United Way giving option was discontinued in 2005 when the Commissioners gave employees an extra three days off during the holidays instead of a cost of living increase. An employee who gives Fair Share to United Way donates one hour's pay per month to the agency. In exchange, the employee would be able to take their birthday off with pay. It must be on the actual birthday. If the birthday falls on a weekend or a holiday, the employee may take the work day before or after. If an employee works more than an eight-hour shift, the employee may take eight hours for Fair Share birthday and annual leave for the remainder of the shift.

### Tax Department prepares for 2011 revaluation

The Board of Commissioners agreed to contract the services of John W. Edmondson to assist the Tax Department in the 2011 revaluation process. Edmondson will serve as Revaluation Project Manager for about \$220,000. The County paid more than \$600,000 in 2003 to contract with an outside firm to conduct the entire revaluation. Tax Administrator Mary Helen Norton said part of Edmondson's responsibility will be to train staff so that successive revaluations would be conducted in-house. An in-house revaluation would be a savings to the County. Edmondson, who has more than 30 years experience as a tax assessor and tax administrator, will provide guidance to the Tax office from the spring of 2009 through 2011 when the revaluation project concludes.

### Donors needed for February 5 Blood Drive

Scotland County will sponsor a Blood Drive 12:30 p.m. to 5 p.m. Thursday, February 5, in the Commissioners Chamber at the Government Complex. The location of the Blood Drive was changed to accommodate as many employees as possible, most of whom work at DSS, the Health Department and neighboring EMS. The number of donors were down substantially during the past few drives when they were held at 507 West Covington Street. If you would like to donate, please email Human Resources Manager Susan Butler at [sbutler@scotlandcounty.org](mailto:sbutler@scotlandcounty.org) with a preferred time. Appointments are encouraged and times are in 15-minute increments beginning at 12:30 p.m. Employee and public walk-ins also are welcome. The promotion for this drive is a chance to win two Delta domestic airline tickets. As you present to donate, you will be issued one entry form to be entered in the grand prize drawing to be held March 31. The names of the winners will be announced and made available by contacting 1-800-GIVE-LIFE or by visiting the website at [www.redcrossblood.org](http://www.redcrossblood.org).

### Library receives Gates Foundation grant

Scotland Memorial Library received a \$15,600 Opportunity Online hardware grant from the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation. The grant is designed to help libraries provide to the public free, high-quality access to computer work stations. Funding will replace and add public computer workstations and provide the associated training and tech support over a two-year period. The first year of the grant will provide computer workstations for the main library and computer upgardes at the Wagram branch in the second year of the grant.

## the Birthday list for February

1 William Bullard (Elections Board) and Betty Blue Gholston (Commissioner); 2 Katherine Mohn (Jail); 3 Lindsey Stone (Jail) and Lisa Tew (Health); 4 Gary Lockety (Public Buildings); 5 Randy Dover (Sheriff); 6 Debra Holcomb (Register of Deeds); 7 Tisha Moody (DSS); 8 Al Blades (Parks and Recreation); 9 Dale Scott (Recreation Complex); 10 Lea Fogle (EMS); 11 Ron Sapp (Health); 12 Joyce McDow (Commissioner) and Matthew Locklear (EMS); 13 Donald Locklear (EMS); 14 Yvonne Deberry (DSS); 15 Brian Dockery (Parks and Recreation); 16 Patricia Brown (Register of Deeds); 17 Joe Knott (DSS); 18 Darren Floyd (EMS) and Tiffany Flowers (Administration); 19 Sandy Skamperle (DSS); 20 Teresa Jacobs (DSS), Glen Lockety (Public Works), Mike Edge (EMS) and Robert Ellis (Parks and Recreation); 22 Joyce Riggan (DSS); 23 Donald Flowers (Sheriff); 24 Ann Kurtzman (Administration) and Dieter Bennett (Parks and Recreation); 25 Frances Moody (Health), Jim Blackwell (Public Works) and Paul Bridgeman and Earl Bradley (Parks and Recreation); 26 Robin Quick (Health); 29 Doris Harrington (Parks and Recreation).

## EMS hosts annual dinner



**EMS, Braveheart, First Health and Buildings and Grounds staff gathered in the EMS ambulance bay for the annual EMS covered dish Christmas dinner. The dinner is always held on the last work day before Christmas, usually December 23, so the EMS crew and dispatcher who work Christmas day have some leftovers for Christmas.**

## 401k transition of investment options nearing deadline

*continued from page 1*

Martindale said that for those who opt out, they can elect at a future date to move their investments over to the new fund options. "Once you are there, though, there is no going back."

## Book sale earns seed money for future Friends of the Library

Scotland Memorial Library staff learned a big lesson about book sales. Start earlier. There are a lot of book lovers out there.

"People were waiting in the library lobby for the book sale to start, said Library Director Leon Gyles. The next book sale, April 18, will begin at 9 a.m. when the library opens instead of 11 a.m.

The November 15 communitywide book sale raised \$285,

**The following information is the 2009 meeting schedule of the Board of Commissioners and the 2009 holiday schedule for employees as of February 2009. The Board of Commissioners meet in the Commissioners Chamber, 1405 West Boulevard, Laurinburg, unless otherwise posted.**

### 2009 Holiday Schedule

Good Friday, April 10, 2009  
Memorial Day, May 25, 2009  
Independence Day, July 3, 2009  
Labor Day, September 7, 2009  
Veteran's Day, November 11, 2009  
Thanksgiving, November 26 and 27, 2009  
Christmas, December 24 and 25, 2009

### Board of Commissioners Meetings

February 2, 2009  
March 2, 2009  
April 6, 2009  
May 4, 2009  
June 1, 2009  
July 6, 2009  
August 3, 2009  
September 1, 2009 (Tuesday)  
October 5, 2009  
November 2, 2009  
December 7, 2009

## SCOTLAND COUNTY PARKS & RECREATION

Scotland County Parks and Recreation will sponsor "**The Law and You**," a series to be presented 10:30 a.m. the third Friday of each month at Scotland Place Senior Center. David Richardson, staff attorney with the Legal Aid of North Carolina, will be the presenter. The February 20 second session topics include: Why you need a testamentary will; What happens if you do not have a financial power of attorney; and Who will make medical decisions if you can not speak for your self. For more information, contact Senior Programs Coordinator Doris Ann Donovan, 277-2585.

The Young at Heart Club will hold its annual **Soup Sale** 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. Friday, February 6 at Scotland Place Senior Center. Prices are \$4.50 per quart and \$4 to eat in. The meal includes soup, drink and dessert. Tickets are available from club members.

Scotland County Parks and Recreation will offer a **motorcoach trip to Savannah, Jekyll Island and Beauford, Georgia**, for a four-night stay. Cost of the trip, May 18 to 22, is \$439 per person, double occupancy. A \$75 deposit is due upon signing and final payment is due March 12. Travel insurance also is available. Contact Senior Programs Coordinator Doris Ann Donovan, 277-2585, for more information.

## Introductions & transitions

Welcome to those individuals who joined Scotland County departments as of November 16, 2008: **Crystal McNair**, Jail; **Kimberly Villanueva**, DSS; **Vanessa Jefferson**, EMS and **Tina Bormet** part-time with EMS. Best wishes to **Mary Freeman** on her retirement. Freeman worked more than 10 years with the Tax Department..

Those who plan to transition to the new investment options need not do anything. Those who wish to opt out must do so by 4 p.m. February 27.

which will be used as seed money for the soon-to-be-established Friends of the Library, a group that would promote support of the library through advocacy initiatives.

Gyles said donated books from the community would be used in future sales. Book donations will be accepted during library hours or in the book drop after hours.