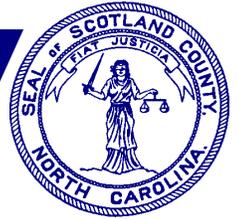


Scotland County

Monthly



JANUARY 2010

A newsletter for Scotland County employees

Now is the time to apply for Census jobs

For those looking to temporary work or to supplement their income, now is the time to apply for a job with the U.S. Census Bureau.

Al Howe, Local Census Office Manager, Fayetteville Local Census Office, said the big push to hire between 150 to 175 part-time workers in Scotland County began the first week of January and will continue until the end of April.

Howe said the earlier people apply the better because applicants must first successfully complete a 20-question math and reading comprehension test and then participate in a training.

Howe said Census work will last about 12 to 16 weeks from spring through summer. Standard hourly wage is \$13.50. Crew leaders would earn \$15 an hour and field supervisors

\$16.50.

Most Census workers in Scotland County will be responsible for canvassing households where there was no response to the questionnaires sent to them April 1.

**Call 866-861-2010
in order to be
considered for a
Census job**

Howe said the Census will hire people who live in the County to canvas their own County. He said ideally Scotland County residents hired for the non-response door-to-door follow-up jobs will live in the communities they cover if not the neighborhoods they will be assigned to cover.

Five sites in Scotland County are being used for testing — Scotland Memorial Library, Laurel Hill Community Center, Northview Harvest Ministries, Gibson Train Station Depot and the Chamber of Commerce.

Howe said locations used in training might be different from testing sites and will be closer and more conveniently located to where prospective Census workers live, particularly in the hard-to-count areas and communities.

There currently are more than 450 Scotland County applicants in the Census database, including those who applied for the 2008 Dress Rehearsal. Howe added that anyone who ever successfully tested for a Census job, regardless of when, will be considered for employment with the 2010 Census.

Howe said it would be highly advantageous for prospective Census applicants to take the 20-question practice test available online since it would work to ensure first-time success in taking the actual test. (Applicants can take the actual test multiple times). The practice test can be located online at http://2010.census.gov/2010censusjobs/documents/Practice_Test.pdf.

Those who sign up for the test on a specific time and date should arrive 10 to 15 minutes early. Howe said there has been difficulty with no-shows and it is critical that applicants who are serious about working for the Census also are prompt for testing.

Census Specialist pays visit February 3

Jan Coley, U.S. Census Partnership Specialist, will be at Scotland Memorial Library 1 to 3 p.m. Wednesday, February 3 to answer questions about the Census. The public is encouraged to stop by for a one-on-one discussion on all things Census.

Purcell recognized for no-smoking law

Health Department officials thanked Senator Bill Purcell for his work successfully negotiating the passage of a new no-smoking law for restaurants and bars by holding a reception at McDuff's in honor of the lawmaker.

Lodging establishments also affected by the new law can designate no more than 20 percent of guest rooms as smoking rooms.

Purcell said the law will curtail public health risks associated with second-hand smoking. He described the State law as "significant" and a "major accomplishment."

A 2006 Surgeon General report, *The Health Consequences of Involuntary Exposure to Tobacco Smoke*, provided inspiration for change.

The report, issued by U.S. Surgeon General Richard H. Carmona, concluded that there is no risk-free level

of exposure to secondhand smoke.

Nonsmokers exposed to secondhand smoke at home or work increase their risk of developing heart disease by 25 to 30 percent and lung cancer by 20 to 30 percent, according to the report.

Carmona asserted that nearly half of all nonsmokers are regularly exposed to secondhand smoke, and even brief exposure to smoke can be a hazard.

At the State level, smoking was banned in the legislative building and offices in the wake of revelations from the 2006 report.

Eventually smoking was banned in all State buildings and offices as well as all State vehicles.

The State acted further by allowing schools to create their own policies on smoking, which led to a universal rejection of smoking by individual North Carolina school systems.

see Law, page 3



Health Director Ron Sapp, left, Senator Bill Purcell, center, and Environmental Health Specialist Danny Sprouse stand with the required no-smoking signage at

Faulk gets a "Thank You"



Chairman J.D. Willis, left, officially thanks Keith Faulk, Public Buildings.

Keith Faulk, Public Buildings, was the first County employee to receive recognition through the thankyou@scotlandcounty.org program.

Faulk was thanked by the County Commissioners. He received a framed certificate of appreciation, a gift certificate and a Scotland County logo windbreaker.

A review committee of department heads selected Faulk as recipient of the 2009 fourth quarter thank-you award from a pool of about 50 employees who were thanked by fellow co-workers for something special they did in the performance of their jobs.

Teresa Jacobs, DSS, submitted Faulk's name for the award.

"I would like to send out a 'Thank You' to Keith Faulk for buying a hungry child food this morning from the vending machines," Jacobs wrote in an email. "The food is kind of expensive but he showed love to that child and made the child and mom happy. Thank you, Keith, for caring for someone else."

An employee will be selected quarterly for showing kindness on the job, performing excellent customer service that stood out or for going the extra mile to help someone else, whether it be a fellow employee or a customer.

"A lot of times people point out when we do wrong, where we're not nice. where we just drop the ball," County Manager Kevin Patterson explained.

"Not many people notice the 99 percent of the rest of the time. This allows County employees to acknowledge co-workers who take small steps to make their day more pleasant or working better with clients and overall improve the total working environment."

Human Resources Manager Susan Butler said, "When employees put that extra effort into doing something nice, making others happy or helping a co-worker get a job done, we want to know."

Thank your fellow employees at thankyou@scotlandcounty.org.

Local officials set sights on seeking federal funding for priority projects

The County will continue to pursue federal funding for the Emergency Operations Center, the WestPoint Stevens water feasibility study and the Scotland Place Senior Center.

In a separate issue, the County will partner with the City of Laurinburg, Town of Maxton and Laurinburg-Maxton Airport Commission in an attempt to secure federal funds for rehabilitation of the airport runway.

The objectives were outlined by representatives from Marlowe & Company, Washington, D.C.-based government affairs consultants that advocate on a federal level funding of project needs of counties and municipalities.

In fiscal year 2010, Marlowe & Company conveyed the project requests to the Congressional delegation. Representative Larry Kissell, in turn, requested of the relevant Senate Appropriations subcommittees \$300,000 for the water study, \$1 million for the Emergency Operations Center, \$500,000 for the senior center and \$5 million for the runway project.

Senator Kay Hagan also requested funding for the water study and Emergency Operations Center.

As a result, the Emergency Operations Center was awarded a \$650,000 Homeland Security grant. The County will seek the remaining \$350,000 for the project in 2011.

Daniel Sheehan, a principal with Marlowe & Company, recommended the County continue to pursue funding for the same projects in fiscal year 2011. Sheehan explained that consistency in identifying priority projects from one year to the next can result in success in receiving the funds.

Sheehan said it is equally important for area elected officials and administrative representatives to make the trip to Washington, D.C. to meet with the the local delegation and their staff and to personally articulate community needs.

Scotland County and City of Laurinburg officials made the trip last year. They plan to return to Washington in February or March, before the delegation makes requests to appropriations committees.

Sheehan said, "Taking the time to come to Washington to make your case to Congress is the sort of engaged, personal commitment that carries the day on Capitol Hill."

**Recognize a co-worker for a job well done,
going the extra mile or a gesture of kindness.
Say thankyou@scotlandcounty.org**

Introductions & transitions

Welcome to those individuals who joined Scotland County departments since November 16, 2009: **Ellen Locklear** and **Natalie Manning**, Health; **Amy Locklear** and **Tracey Ansley**, DSS; and **Oscar Henderson**, part-time with EMS.

the Birthday list for February

1 Betty Blue Gholston (Commissioner); **2** Katherine Mohn (Jail); **3** Albert Stone (Jail) and Lisa Tew (Health); **5** Steven Dover (Sheriff); **6** Debra Holcomb (Register of Deeds); **7** Tisha Moody (DSS); **8** Al Blades (Parks and Recreation); **10** Leah Fogle and Carrie Edwards (EMS); **11** Ron Sapp (Health); **12** Joyce McDow (Commissioner) and Matthew Locklear (EMS); **13** Donald Locklear (EMS); **14** Yvonne Deberry (DSS); **16** Patricia Brown (Register of Deeds); **17** Joe Knott (DSS); **18** Joel Floyd (EMS) and Tiffany Flowers (Administration); **19** Sandra Skamperle (DSS) and Amanda Cooke (Tax); **20** Glen Lockey (Public Works), Teresa Jacobs (DSS) and Mike Edge (EMS); **22** Joyce Riggan (DSS); **23** Donald Flowers (Sheriff); **24** Ann Kurtzman (Administration); **25** Frances Moody (Health) and Jim Blackwell (Public Works); **27** Ellen Locklear (Health).

Tax forms are no longer available at public agencies

by Leon Gyles, Scotland Memorial Library

For Scotland County taxpayers seeking tax forms and publications, this year will offer a few new challenges.

Both the North Carolina and federal governments are encouraging taxpayers to file taxes electronically as it is quicker, more convenient and reduces the chance for errors on their returns.

Scotland Memorial Library staff recently received notification that as part of the North Carolina Department of Revenue's efforts to reduce printing costs and encourage electronic filing, the agency will not provide tax forms to public facilities like libraries and post offices this year.

The Department of Revenue is encouraging individual taxpayers to order forms by mail at no cost by calling the department toll-free at 1-877-252-3052 or by going to <http://www.dor.state.nc.us/request/> and completing an online request for forms.

Scotland County taxpayers can download both federal and State forms and print them by going to the Library's webpage <http://www.scotlandcolibrary.com> and then to the Links page where the appropriate link for either your federal or state forms can be selected.

Residents who do not have access to a home computer can call the Library staff at 276-0563 to schedule an appointment to use a public access computer to download and print your required forms.

Purcell supports no-smoking law

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The new law does not apply to cigar bars, non-profit private clubs, lodging establishments that do not serve food or drink for pay, and food service/lodging establishments that are exempt from the state sanitation laws.

In order to comply with the law, establishments must post required signage at all entrances, remove all indoor ashtrays and ask smokers to step outside to smoke.

Businesses that repeatedly break the law can be fined up to \$200 per day. Smokers who refuse to smoke outside can be fined \$50 by local law enforcement for defying the law.

**Friday, February 5 is
National Wear RED Day
sponsored by the
American Heart Association**

Railroad engine the newest (and largest) museum attraction

The Museum of Scotland County received its largest donation yet when a fully restored diesel-powered train engine was delivered to its front door.

The engine, a donation from Pete Claussen, owner of Gulf & Ohio Railways, Inc., was accompanied by its very own track.

The 600-horsepower SW-1 locomotive built in 1948 by General Motors Electro-Motor Division has a permanent place in the parking lot along side the Museum of Scotland County. Its delivery coincided with the 100th anniversary of the Laurinburg & Southern Railroad Company, incorporated March 4, 1909.

Scotland Historic Properties Commission Chairman Philip McRae expects the presence of the engine in the parking lot will be a big draw.

McRae said it will get the attention of travelers who would normally drive by the museum without stopping.

The donated engine was used by the Laurinburg & Southern Railroad on a route from Raeford south through Wagram and Laurinburg to Johns Station. From there, the goods it carried were transferred to other railroad lines and sent throughout the country.

The L&S originally transported produce. In 1910, as demand for rail travel gained momentum, the L & S began carrying passengers. Mail service was added a year later.

In 1921, a 12-mile piece of track was purchased by L&S from the Aberdeen & Rockfish Railroad. With the purchase came a period of prosperity that was sustained until the Great Depression.

Highway travel for passengers and freight in the 1930s contributed to lost revenues for railroads, including the L&S.

A resurgence for the L&S occurred after World War II when it began hauling fuel, livestock and building supplies from for local companies.

In the 1980s, the railroad cars were primarily used for leasing purposes.

In the 1990s, ownership of L&S passed from the family of one of the original owners, John F. McNair, to Gulf & Ohio Railways.

Claussen said his company chose to repair and donate one of its older engines to the Museum of Scotland County as a testament to the history of the independent railroad business.

Gulf & Ohio continues to transport goods for LOF Glass Company and Murphy-Brown.

The museum is located on X-Way Road across from the John Blue House.



The engine was delivered to the Museum of Scotland County, and its wheels followed in a separate delivery. Commissioner John Alford, below left, and EMS Director Roylin Hammond welcome the arrival of the engine and its 100th anniversary celebration by wearing Laurinburg & Southern Railroad commemorative caps especially made for the occasion.

News of Note



Ten Scotland County youth attended workshops on 4-H Ambassador program, Bio-Fuel Blast, Going Green to the Extreme and Scrapbooking during the District 4-H Winter Enrichment January 16 Moore County. Ryan Fairley, South Central District Secretary/Treasurer, helped conduct the afternoon business meeting. Langston Byrd, 2010 Scotland 4-H County Council Reporter gave the Scotland county 4-H update. Pictured, from left, Ryan Fairley, Langston Byrd and two other district officers from nearby counties prepare for the afternoon business meeting.

Forget the late fees, just bring food

Scotland Memorial Library will accept food for late fees during amnesty Month February 1 to 20. Library Director Leon Gyles said the Library wanted to develop a creative method in which the community would benefit, and books would be returned to the Library's shelves. The Library asks that people returning overdue books bring nonperishable food items, canned or packaged and not out of date. Each nonperishable food item will be worth \$2 toward clearing your record. Food items will cover fines only — not lost or damaged items. The collected foods will be distributed to the Church Community Services food bank.

Working Women's Workouts begin again

The "Working Women's Workouts!" Program sponsored by Healthy Carolinians will begin a new six-week session February 1. Workouts will be 5 p.m. to 6 p.m. Mondays, Tuesdays and Thursdays at Scotland Place. Cost is \$12 to begin the program. Join the group for a fun-filled hour of physical activity. Contact Kathie Cox at 277-2470, Ext. 4478, if you have questions.

Community Shred Day set for March 20

The successful Shred-It Program will return for a second consecutive year 9 a.m. to 12 p.m. Saturday, March 20.

Sponsored by Scotland County Cooperative Extension and members of Extension and Community Association (ECA), Community Shred Day allows each person to bring up to 100 pounds of paperwork, old receipts, forms and documents for rapid shredding.

The service is free of charge and residents from surrounding counties also are invited to participate. Each person can bring up to 100 pounds of paper for shredding.

"This is the second year Cooperative Extension provided this opportunity for citizens," said Sharon English, Family and Consumer Agent. "The 2009 event was so successful, with more than 9,000 pounds of paper collected, that Shred-It offered to return in 2010," English added. Shred-It vehicles feature a 10,000-pound capacity.

"With identity theft noted as one of the fastest growing crimes in the United States, this is a great opportunity for citizens to dispose of their information safely," said English.

She added that March is an ideal time to sponsor the event. "January usually brings about thoughts of change and improvements," English explained. "Many times we promise ourselves to be better organized and reduce the clutter we have accumulated throughout the past year. We can easily become overwhelmed as we sort through the papers that consume valuable space in our homes."

Community Shred Day will be held at the Scotland High School parking lot located at 1000 West Church Street in Laurinburg. Shred-It, a company that specializes in secure document management, will have a truck on hand.

The Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI) estimates that between 500,000 and 700,000 people fall victim annually to identity theft. Victims can spend countless hours closing accounts, opening new ones and correcting credit records.

In December 2009, Cooperative Extension and the North Carolina Department of Justice collaborated to offer four community workshops on identity theft, scams and frauds. Eighty-seven citizens attended the workshops and received tips on how to protect their names and prevent becoming victims of these crimes.

A representative from the North Carolina Department of Justice will be in attendance at the upcoming Community Shred to distribute information and answer questions.

"We will receive material to shred until 12 p.m. or up until the the truck is full, whichever comes first," English said. "I encourage everyone to mark March 20 on their calendar and take advantage of this no-cost opportunity to safely clear their homes of confidential paperwork."

Contact Sharon English at (910) 277-2422 for more information.

EM Statistics

EMS Report for December:

Responded to 372 Medical/Trauma calls

Treated 35 total traffic accident patients

Animal Control calls after hours/emergency 29

Sold 14 blue address signs

911 Report Highlights:

360 EMS

283 Sheriff's Department

268 Laurinburg Police Department

22 Fire Department

797 hang-up calls

111 wrong numbers

43 open line calls

1,598 cellular calls

3,474 total calls to 911

Top five complaints for EMS

Response

52 sick person (specific diagnosis)

38 falls/back injuries

35 traffic accidents (total patients)

31 breathing problems

30 transfer/interfacility/palliative care

Weather Observations

(EMS Recordings)

Temp (high) 75 on 12/9

Temp (low) 25 on 12/21

Wind (mph) 24 on 12/2

Rainfall (inches) .82 on 12/2

Compiled by Tommy Hatcher