

Scotland County

Monthly



JANUARY 2011

A newsletter for Scotland County employees

County program set to recycle electronics

Electronics will no longer take up space in the landfill. They will be recycled instead.

The County is ahead of the curve on a State law that will require all electronics to be banned from landfills in favor of recycling by July 1, 2011.

The County's electronic recycling program became effective January 19.

"Electronics have chemicals and materials that are recyclable and could pose a contamination issue over time (in landfills)," said SolidWaste Enforcement Officer Bobby Horne.



The County partnered with eCycleSecure out of Charlotte to dispose of electronics.

"The vendor will take the recyclables at no cost to the County," Horne said.

He added that eCycleSecure is on contract with the State, which means the vendor is licensed to recycle the material.

eCycleSecure assures that equipment, including servers, PCs, monitors, televisions, telecom systems, cell phones/smart phones and medical equipment will be managed responsibly.

According to its website, "Our secure environmentally sound methods eliminate worry about retiring your end-of-life and end-of-use equipment."

Horne said, "This will reduce the waste stream at the transfer station and at the recycle centers, which will be set up to take electronics."

Horne added that the company will pick up electronic recyclables at the landfill and the five convenience centers on an on-call basis when the volume merits collection.

The company also will provide Horne with tonnage collection data following pick ups.

"We'll tweak the program along the way," Horne said. "Like anything you do when you start off, we'll learn from experience."

For a list of electronic items that are recyclable, see page 2.

Commissioners meetings move to A.B. Gibson Center for 2011

The Board of Commissioners will hold its regular monthly meetings at the A.B. Gibson Education Center as of February 7, 2011. The Commissioners will convene in the same chamber where the Board of Education holds its regular meetings.

With a mind on pressing space issues at the Department Social Services, the Commissioners agreed that turning their meeting room over to the agency would relieve some space issues in the short term. The Commissioners Chamber is currently used almost daily by Social Services.

DSS Director Robby Hall said the waiting room at Social Services is too small and issues of security need to be addressed. The Commissioners Chamber will be transformed into a large waiting room that will include a security system.

The action taken by the Commissioners is the first in a multi-year effort to retrofit DSS to open space, resolve how files are stored and address privacy, safety and fire concerns. The State recently notified the County that it expects a plan to address all the listed issues by February 28.

Chairman Davis said vacating the Commissioners Chamber for use by Social Services is just the first step in the process. He explained that it alerts the State to the County's resolve to address the Social Services space needs now and in the future.

Hall developed a draft multi-year short-term and long-term plan. He and County Manager Kevin Patterson will refine the plan for review by the Commissioners.

A copy of the Commissioners meeting schedule is on page 2.

Officials tour East Laurinburg School



Left to right, County Manager Kevin Patterson, Chairman Bob Davis and Commissioner Guy McCook tour East Laurinburg School.

Commissioners and administrative staff toured East Laurinburg School as part of an ongoing review on how to relieve the squeeze on space, particularly at the Department of Social Services.

Students at East Laurinburg will transfer to Shaw when the school closes for good at the end of this academic year.

The Board of Commissioners will have the option to assume ownership of the building if they determine the facility could have a long-term use for the County.

Chairman Bob Davis, Vice Chair Joyce McDow and Commissioners John Alford, Carol McCall and Guy McCook, accompanied by County Manager Kevin Patterson and County Engineer Jim Blackwell, also toured the Speller and Sanford buildings located across from the Post Office.

The two vacant buildings are owned by Richmond Community College.

In the past the County and City discussed the possibility of colocating Tax and utilities billing to the the Speller building to create a one-stop collections site.

Fayetteville park honors veterans

All 100 counties in North Carolina will honor its veterans on a monument that will be unveiled July 4 in Fayetteville.

A curved wall in the new state Veterans Park in Fayetteville will feature the bronzed right hand of a veteran from each of North Carolina's 100 counties.

In Scotland County the right hand of ISG Willam H. Swift, Jr., will be bronzed.

Swift served 26 years of active duty and was involved as a combat veteran of the Vietnam Conflict and Desert Storm/Desert Shield.

Since 1983, he has served as the Army Instructor for Marlboro High School JROTC.

All bronze hand casts, including Swift's, will be fashioned palms out and fingers together as if preparing to recite the oath to enlist.

In addition, the concrete used for the veterans oath wall and 50 columns that stand in front of the wall will be mixed with a soil collection from each county.

Each of the 50 columns will have the name of a county on either side.

On the day Swift had his hand cast for the bronze application, Chairman Bob Davis and Veteran Service Officer Mildred Williams collected soil from the American Legion Post property for inclusion in the wall and columns, which will be part of the eight-acre North Carolina Veterans Park located along Bragg Boulevard next to the Airborne and Special Operations Museum.



Veteran Service Officer Mildred Williams and Chairman Bob Davis collect soil that will be incorporated in Veterans Park in Fayetteville.

All primary schools to study embryology

The 4-H embryology program has become so popular that every elementary school in Scotland County has requested the program for 2011.

Scotland County 4-H will implement the 21-day embryology program in more than 70 classrooms.

The embryology program provides an exciting, hands-on approach to learning.

Scotland County 4-H provides incubators, brooder boxes, heat lamps, feed, curriculum and training to facilitate the project.

Students turn the eggs, maintain records, keep trays filled with water and ensure proper incubation temperature.

Covington Street Primary was the location for the pilot embryology program in May 2006.

the Birthday list for February

3 Lisa Tew (Health); **5** Steven Dover (Sheriff); **6** Debra Holcomb (Register of Deeds); **8** Al Blades (Parks and Recreation); **9** John Cooley (Commissioner); **10** Carrie Edwards (EMS); **11** Ron Sapp (Health); **12** Joyce McDow (Commissioner) and Matthew Locklear (EMS); **13** Donald Locklear (EMS); **14** Yvonne Deberry (DSS); **16** Pat Brown (Register of Deeds); **18** Tiffany Flowers (Administration); **19** Sandy Skamperle (DSS) and Amanda Cooke (Tax); **20** Teresa Jacobs (DSS), Glen Lockey (Public Works) and Mike Edge (EMS); **22** Joyce Riggins (DSS); **23** Donald Flowers (Sheriff); **24** Ann Kurtzman (Administration); **25** Frances Moody (Health) and Jim Blackwell (Public Works); **27** Ellen Locklear (Health).

Recycle Your Electronics

What can be recycled in Scotland County

| | |
|---------------------------|---------------------------|
| PCs, hard drives, laptops | printers |
| televisions, monitors | copiers |
| LCD monitors | microwaves |
| keyboards and mice | typewriters |
| servers | fax machines |
| cellphones and PDAs | telephone systems |
| video games | rechargeable batteries |
| iPod and mp3 players | VCRs and stereos |
| network equipment | cameras |
| consumer electronics | projection, recording, |
| computers | test measuring equipment, |
| scanners | parts and accessories |

Commissioners change meeting location

The Scotland County Board of Commissioners will hold its monthly meetings for the remainder of 2011 at the A.B. Gibson Education Center, 322 South Main Street, Laurinburg, effective February 7, 2011. The monthly meetings will be held on the following dates at 7 p.m.

February 7, 2011
 March 7, 2011
 April 4, 2011
 May 2, 2011
 June 6, 2011
 July 5, 2011 (Tuesday)
 August 1, 2011
 September 6, 2011 (Tuesday)
 October 3, 2011
 November 7, 2011
 December 5, 2011

Our condolences to ...

Commissioner Bob Davis on the December 22 death of his brother-in-law and to Commissioner Clarence McPhatter on the death of his grandfather.

Snow, ice, shut County offices down

Scotland County was snowed in one day and immobilized by ice the next day when 2011 got off to a frigid start in the southeast region.

Seven inches of snow January 10, followed by a carpet of ice January 11, forced County offices to shut down and open on a two-hour delay January 12.



Essential personnel were the only ones who reported to work.

Banks and many businesses, restaurants and retail outlets either closed early or did not open at all.

The last time snow and ice coated the ground and interrupted normal County operations was January 2004.

Most employees in 2004, with the exception of essential personnel, were notified not to report to work. The shutdown lasted two consecutive days.

Fortunately, few accidents, power outages and downed trees or tree limbs were reported.

Employees remained updated on closures by listening to WLNC Radio or watching WRAL and News Channel 14.

Employees also relied on a regularly updated recorded messages on the current status of County offices when they called the main switchboard at 910-277-2406.

Not everyone was housebound. EMS Director Roylin Hammond photographed the snow and ice conditions while on the road throughout the week.

Beginning at the top, the picnic bench at EMS worked well for measuring the depth of the snow.

Snow fell most of the day Monday, January 10, and is unblemished at the Covington Street Administration Building. *(This photo was taken by Andy Kurtzman).*

By Tuesday morning the front of the Government Complex on West Boulevard looked like an ice skating rink.

County employees were on a two-hour delay Wednesday, January 12. Public Buildings crew were out early clearing paths to County facilities.

John Willenburg, left, and J.T. Thomas salt and scrape ice from the walkway at the West Covington Street Administration Building.

On a humorous note, it might be wishful thinking that the snowman is waving good-bye to the snow and ice — at least for the remainder of winter 2011.

Officials advocate for project funding in D.C.

County and City officials visited U.S. Senators Kay Hagan and Richard Burr and U.S. Representatives Larry Kissell and Mike McIntyre to request funding for four projects considered of high importance.

The projects include expansion of the Emergency Operations Center (EOC), expansion of Scotland Place to house a senior wellness center, upgrade of the Laurinburg-Maxton Airport runway and construction of a business incubator.

In order for all projects to become reality, the officials hope to get a favorable response to their request for an estimated \$2.5 million from the federal legislators.

The County has already been promised \$650,000 in Homeland Security funds for the EOC expansion, but an additional \$350,000 is needed.

Expansion of Scotland Place for a senior wellness center could become reality with \$500,000 in federal funding.

The Laurinburg-Maxton Airport (LMAC) plans to upgrade its runway to accommodate larger aircraft. The \$1.1 million added to \$5 million already raised by LMAC would increase the depth and durability of the runway.

A new request this year will be for \$500,000 to \$600,000 for the construction of an incubator space, which would be used for new businesses, exiting business expansion and military-related operations.

Commissioners Joyce McDow and Guy McCook, County Manager Kevin Patterson, Economic Developer Greg Icard and City Council Members Tommy Parker and Kenton Spence and City Manager Ed Burchins traveled to Washington, D.C., January 25 to advocate for the local projects.

Thank you for volunteering



Congratulations to EMS Director Roylin Hammond, who was recognized as the Chamber of Commerce Volunteer of the Year for 2010. Pictured here, Hammond lends a hand during the Chamber-sponsored two-day Jobs Expo held in September at the National Guard Armory.

Budget discussions to begin on non-profit funding issue

The Commissioners agreed to eliminate the Community Assistance Grant program as of June 30, 2011. The program allowed Commissioners to appropriate discretionary funds to non-profits and agencies of their choosing without a vote of the full board.

Commissioner Clarence McPhatter cast the only dissenting vote to eliminate the program. McPhatter said some agencies are very small, and the grants they receive from Commissioners make a difference in staying open or closing their doors. McPhatter added that some agencies might not receive majority support from the Commissioners although they provide a valuable service to the community.

Under the Community Assistance Grant \$75,000 is budgeted each fiscal year — \$10,000 for each Commissioner and \$15,000 for the Chairman — to appropriate to agencies and non-profits of their choosing.

Chairman Bob Davis at the January 3 Board of Commissioners meeting moved to discontinue the grant program as of January 31, 2011.

Commissioner John Alford voiced resistance to the motion. Alford said he was not against eliminating the program, but he felt it should continue as budgeted until the end of the fiscal year.

Commissioner Alford added he would be open to discussing an alternate funding method for service agencies during upcoming budget sessions.

Chairman Davis and Commissioner Guy McCook expressed opposition to the Community Assistance Grant policy from its inception. Both Commissioners contend that any funding of outside agencies should be done with majority support of the Board and not at the discretion of individual Commissioners.

As a result of their opposition to program, neither Commissioner has made a funding grant to an outside agency.

The Community Assistance Program will end June 30, 2011. The Commissioners will discuss how to fund non-profits, if at all, during budget work sessions in the spring.

Introductions & transitions

Welcome to those individuals who joined Scotland County departments as of October 16, 2010: **Anita Jenkins** and **Donald Locklear**, EMS; **Lakisha Williams** and **Quinton Williamson**, Parks and Recreation; **Robert Hewitt**, Jail; **April Dorsett**, **Inga Locklear** and **Tammy Garcia** part-time with EMS; **Jamie Hunt**, temporary with Public Buildings; **Carolyn Wallis**, temporary with DSS and **Katherine Duke**, temporary with Public Works. **Sharon English**, Family and Consumer Sciences Extension Agent, transitions to Interim Director of the Scotland County Cooperative Extension, replacing Cathy Graham, who is now Director of Robeson County Cooperative Extension.

News of Note

Workouts for Women continue in 2011

Start the New Year with a healthy resolution. Become a part of the "WOW!" crowd — Workouts for Women. Although sessions began January 18, it's never too late to join. Sessions will continue 5 p.m. to 6 p.m. Monday, Tuesday and Thursday through February 24. Registration is \$12. A liability waiver must be signed. A packet with nutrition information, a walking/exercise log, a theraband and other useful healthy, helpful tips will be provided along with the registration. Join other women as they prepare to achieve a healthier mind and body. Contact Health Educator Kathie Cox at 277-4478 or Holly Russell at Parks and Recreation at 277-2585. All workouts are conducted at Scotland Place on Turnpike Road.

EMS bests itself at the annual Christmas dinner

Every December EMS hosts its annual Christmas dinner on the last working day of the week prior to the holidays. This has been an EMS tradition for well over 20 years. The covered dish dinner is prepared by EMS employees, full-time and part-time, past and present, even retired staff members. It was originally started so EMS crews that had to work during the Christmas holiday would have some food available to them Christmas day. All EMS staff and their families were invited to the feast as well as buildings and grounds staff. "These guys help us throughout the year plus they provide us with he tables and chairs needed the day of the dinner," explained EMS Director Roylin Hammond. "We never know how much food we will have or how many people



The 2010 annual EMS Christmas dinner had its best attendance yet.

will show up. But it always works out fine, and there is always plenty of food." This year 70 people enjoyed the food and fellowship. Hammond said that might be a record. "We even fed the AT&T technician who was working on a 911 problem at EMS when the meal was being served." Hammond added, "We might have to get some additional tables and chairs next year."

Compost class kicks off gardening season

Growing season at the Wagram community garden begins with a compost class Saturday, February 19 from 9 a.m. to 11 a.m. The class will be at the Wagram Community garden site on the corner of Marlboro and Riverton Street in Wagram. Participants will learn the benefits of composting and how to construct a simple compost bin.

Holidays for the remainder of 2011

Good Friday, April 22, 2011, Friday
Memorial Day, May 30, 2011, Monday
Independence Day, July 4, 2011, Monday
Labor Day, September 5, 2011, Monday
Veteran's Day, November 11, 2011, Friday
Thanksgiving, November 24 & 25, 2011, Thursday & Friday
Christmas, December 26 & 27 2011, Monday & Tuesday