



# SCOTLAND COUNTY MONTHLY

JULY 2002

A newsletter for Scotland County employees

## Website features new look

Varying shades of blue are the predominant colors on the new, updated Scotland County website.

The site at [www.scotlandcounty.org](http://www.scotlandcounty.org) is just under a dozen pages with plenty of room for growth.

Current active links include Elected Officials, Cities and Towns, Minutes, Budget, History, Phone and E-Mail Directory and Economic Development.

Agenda information is usually available at least five days prior to the Board of Commissioners regular monthly meetings.

Additional links will be made available as information is provided.

A Scrapbook page, once developed, will feature events of interest to County employees.

Other websites — EMS, Cooperative Extension, the City of Laurinburg, the Chamber of Commerce, St. Andrews Presbyterian College, Scotia Village, Scotland County Schools and Scotland Health Care — are linked to the government page to provide valuable information on area resources to citizens, visitors and potential newcomers.

The Scotland County Tourism Development Authority and Geographic Information Systems (GIS) are under construction and will be linked by August and January, respectively.

The Scotland County website is intended to be an active site with updates and information added several times a week.

Because there is always room for improvement and fine tuning, comments and suggestions are welcomed and encouraged.

So review the pages and feel free to share your thoughts by clicking on the "comments" link at the bottom of the County-generated pages.

## Water District II construction on schedule

An acceleration of Water District II construction activity is planned for August in order for work to get ahead of schedule. Otherwise, work has progressed on schedule through July, according to the Office of the County Engineer.

With one crew working Phase I north of Route 74, more than 14,000 feet of pipe was installed as of July 1, with installation of 40,000 additional feet planned by August.

Two crews working on Phase II south of Route 74 completed more than 44,000 feet of pipe by July 1 with an additional 50,000 put in by early August.

Some piping in Phase II has been pressure tested and residential servicing will be installed shortly.

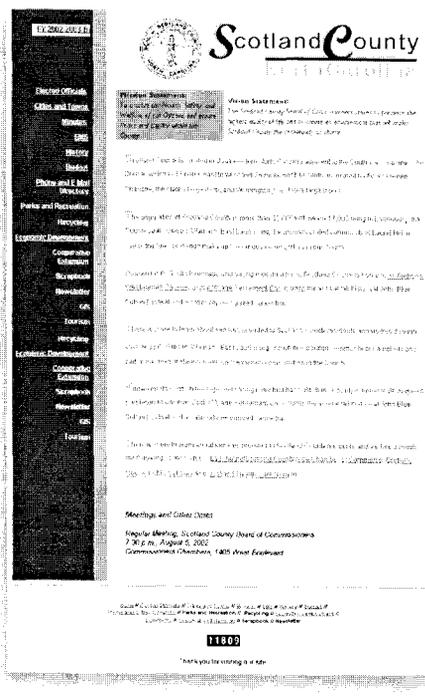
Two elevated water storage tanks are due to be completed on schedule by December 7, 2002.

"I am pleased with the work completed to date," said County Engineer Jim Blackwell. "Quality of work is being emphasized with as little disturbance to residents as possible."

He added, "Driveways that are disturbed are placed back into working order within an hour, and mail boxes are reinstalled by the end of each day. Concrete and asphalt paved drives will be replaced to their original condition within a month."

Once the pipe is installed, it takes another month before the line is energized and water is made available to the customer. Final completion date of Water District II is scheduled for May 2003.

See page 2 for Water District II photos.



**You are invited to attend a farewell reception for Robert Sanford, who retired July 31 after 13 years as Director of the Veteran Service Office.**

**3 to 5 p.m., August 5  
American Legion on Atkinson Street**

**Refreshments will be served.**

**THERE'S MORE INSIDE**

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# Historical, cultural attractions promoted as tourist destinations



In the year since its inception, the Tourism Development Authority has launched an aggressive campaign marketing Scotland County as a "must" in places to visit.

The Authority's new website [www.visitscotlandnc.com](http://www.visitscotlandnc.com) (also known as [www.visitlaurinburgnc.com](http://www.visitlaurinburgnc.com)) will provide information on dining, lodging and events and a map with historical markers. A color brochure (pictured left) distributed to North Carolina visitor centers complements the

website.

"Putting heads in beds and getting people here is our primary mission," explained Authority Chairman Bo Butler. "We're looking to extend stay time in Scotland County by giving visitors more things to do."

Building on the County's historical agricultural roots and its Scottish heritage, the Authority, Parks and Recreation and St. Andrews Presbyterian College have already developed more

compelling reasons for tourists to visit.

A bluegrass festival is new and immediately follows the March Scottish Heritage Symposium and banquet at the college. Plans are underway to schedule events that would tie the Flora Macdonald Highland Games one weekend to the John Blue Cotton Festival the next weekend. A 5k/10k/wheelchair race is planned the morning of the John Blue Festival. "Most runners come into town the night before a race," said Butler.

Since Scotland County is closer to the Flora Macdonald event than the hotels in Lumberton, the Authority is circulating a lodging list along with the brochures at the Grandfather Mountain Highland Games.

Butler sees an endless string of marketing opportunities for the County, which include contracting billboard space along highways 74 and 220, advertising in specialized publications and

applying for grants that promote tourism. "The committee is an excellent, hardworking group that wants to improve tourism which will, in turn, create more jobs," said Butler. "There's a lot going on in Scotland

County, and we're going to help people find it."

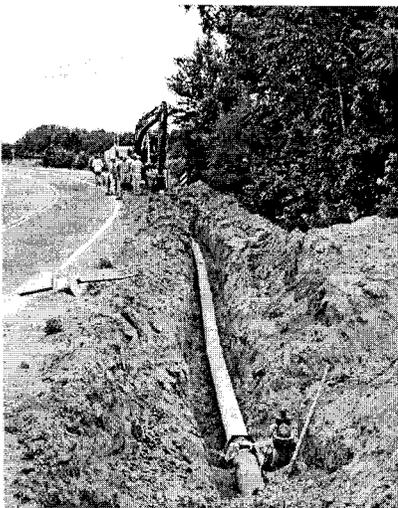
He added, "We're fortunate to have the mountains and the ocean in North Carolina. Scotland County offers historical interest in the middle of the state, and that's what we'll build on."

[

"Putting heads in beds and getting people here is our primary mission."

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## Water, water everywhere, well almost!



X-Way Road, above right, was lined with PVC (polyvinyl chloride) pipes, used in construction of Water District II. Above left, crews lay in the PVC and ductile iron pipes near the intersection of X-Way and Old Stage Roads. Once each section is completed, the County's Solid Waste Department seeds the area. As the pipes crop up along County roads, more households are calling to request applications to hook on. Joy Nolan in the County Engineers Office has been responding to nearly 20 inquiries a day since construction began. Households that wish to become part of the Water District II system need only pay \$100. Once the line is energized and water is made available in an area, households will have to pay \$500 to get on the system. Nearly 800 homes will become part of the system, while 400 residents in Gibson are already connected.

## the Birthday list for August

1 Janice Stuckey-Boyd (DSS) and Cordella Walker (Health); 2 Jennie Lowe (DSS); 4 Bill McMillan (Administration) and Hazel McPhatter (Cooperative Extension); 5 Michael McQueen (EMS) and Gene Jackson (Public Buildings); 8 Terena Taylor (Health); 9 Deloris McNeil (Health); 11 Pam Riemer (Cooperative Extension), Abby Massey (Health) and Cassandra Johnson (PALS); 16 Carolyn Faulk (Jail); 18 David Morrison (Cooperative Extension); 20 Michael Nobles (Jail); 22 Towana Harrington (DSS); 24 Michelle McQuaige (Jail); 25 Larry Goodwin (Public Buildings) and Bill Leggette (Sheriff); 28 Tenita Bullard and Anne Lavinier (DSS); 29 Mitchell Johnson (Sheriff); 30 Kim McRae (DSS) and Robert Wray (Sheriff); 31 Mary Hambright (Health). A belated birthday wish is extended to Juanita Bowen (Cooperative Extension), July 16.

## Introductions & transitions

Welcome to the following employees who have joined County departments since May 16: **Barbara Britt**, Jail; and **Billy Bostick** and **J. C. Dunn**, Public Buildings. **Linda Jones** and **Rachel Campbell** are new part-timers in Transportation.

**Board of Commissioners meet  
7 p.m., August 5, 1405 West Boulevard**

# Primary Election voting preparations set

by *Judy Riggins, Director*  
*Scotland County Board of Elections*

Last month we talked about things you might need to do and the possibility that the next time you hear from me we would probably have an election date. The date is set! The North Carolina Primary Election is **Tuesday, September 10, 2002!**

### Deadlines you need to be thinking about are:

- Voter Registration Closes** **Friday, August 16**
- Absentee Voting Begins** **Thursday, August 16**
- One Stop Absentee Voting Begins** **Thursday, August 22**
- One Stop Absentee Voting Ends** **Saturday, September 7, 1 p.m.**

If you need to make changes or register to vote, there is time. Any registered voter in North Carolina may request to vote an absentee ballot by mail or in person at the County Board of Elections.

One Stop Absentee Voting (an absentee ballot voted in person before election day) is available only in the Board of Elections Office, 231 East Cronly Street, Laurinburg.

For the first time this year One Stop Absentee Voters will cast their ballot on electronic voting equipment. This is a different type of equipment from what is used at your voting place. There will be paper work to be completed by the voter, however this should be much faster than when voters voted in 2000 on paper ballots. If you want to cast your vote before election day, then this is for you.

If you are going to be out of town, are unable, or don't want to go to your voting place, you may take advantage of One Stop Absentee Voting. If you do not want to come to the Election Office for One Stop Absentee Voting, and if you do not want to go to your voting place, you may request your ballot be mailed to your home where you can cast your vote in the comfort of your home.

To apply for an absentee ballot by mail, send a written request to Scotland County Board of Elections with the following information: name (printed & signed); residential address; address to which you want ballot mailed; date of birth; telephone number (or contact number).

The request can be made by the voter, a near relative or a verifiable legal guardian. This does not include Power of Attorney. Upon receipt of your request, the County Board of Elections will send you an absentee ballot, an application on a container-return envelope and instructions for completing the ballot.

After your ballot is marked, place it inside the container-return envelope and seal it. Complete the application printed on the container-return envelope.

Your voted absentee ballot must be returned to the County Board of Elections no later than 5 p.m. on the day before the election. It must be delivered by mail or commercial courier service at the voter's expense or delivered in person by the voter, the voter's near relative or verifiable legal guardian.

Once your ballot has been returned to the Board of Elections, it may not be withdrawn. If your ballot has not been returned and your circumstances change, you may vote at your polling place on Election Day.

# Animal rescue plan sought

The County is taking steps to protect livestock and domestic animals in the event of a natural disaster. Building a County Animal Response Team (CART) is in the works so that what occurred in the 1999 aftermath of Hurricane Floyd may be minimized.

"It's estimated that 3 million animals statewide died or were separated from their owners," said Agricultural Extension Agent David Morrison. "It was a pretty bad situation for a lot of domestic animals. There was no plan in place for them or for handling the beef and swine mortality."

Morrison added, "If a plan was in place, it might have taken a week to bury the animals. Instead, it took six weeks or more."

A group of City and County health and law enforcement, veterinary, humane society, Red Cross and livestock officials, with the help of the State Animal Response Team (SART), will look at what other counties are doing and develop a local animal rescue program.

Morrison said that about 60 percent of homes nationally have at least one domestic pet, and 80 percent of pet owners say they would risk their own lives to save their pets. Giving pet owners and owners of livestock peace of mind is important.

Since EMS works with "the people" side when there is a natural disaster, Morrison said, "We want to get this plan under that umbrella."



## Notes from the County Manager

**Greetings.** As we prepare to turn the calendar for another month, many of our staff will be preparing for a new school year for their children.



**Scott Sauer**

Please drive carefully, wear your seatbelt and slow down. Always keep a watchful eye out for school buses, crosswalks and children on bicycles.

Remember to update your Family Emergency Preparedness plan and to talk with your children about the disruptions that occur with hurricanes and tropical storms. Take time to update provisions for your family so they will be safe while you may be called upon to assist others in our community.

Pray for rain.

Drop a note to say "so long" to retiring Veteran Service Officer Robert Sanford, and wish him well as he embarks on the next chapter of his life.

When you see a County Commissioner or member of the NC General Assembly, remember to thank them for the hard work they do to make Scotland County a better place to live and work.

Pray for rain again, and hope it does not come in the form of a hurricane. Enjoy the rest of your summer, and be safe!



## That's entertainment!

More than 100 Scotland County youngsters enjoyed a June filled with summer camp activities. Parks and Recreation sponsored the camp, which concluded with a morning of entertainment at Market Park. From dancing to poetry readings, magic tricks to storytelling, the kids shared the spotlight as they entertained visiting family members.



## Pesticide disposal free day offered

A rule of thumb is if the container is under the kitchen sink, it's probably in the category of household hazardous waste.

If it hasn't been used in the past year, it's probably time to discard it.

Although today's free pesticide removal day is geared toward farmers, gardeners and homeowners also are welcome to bring their pesticides to the drop off point at Royster Clark in East Laurinburg.

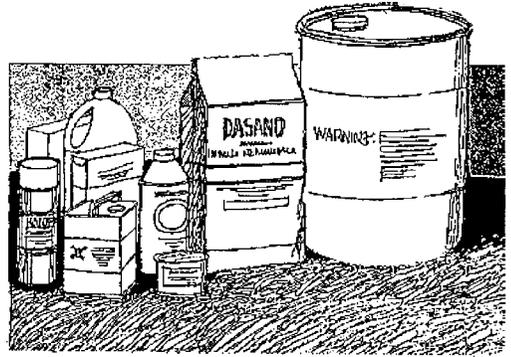
People never consider that a product like Lysol is in the pesticide category. Agricultural Extension Agent David Morrison explained, "Lysol is a pesticide because it kills bacteria and it has an EPA registration."

He added, "There are a lot of pesticides stored in the home, and sometimes people don't think about it until something starts leaking."

Never discard pesticides in the trash because they can leach down and contaminate the drinking water.

Since free days are only scheduled once every few years, farmers and residents can bring pesticides and other hazardous waste to any of the six County Recycle Centers.

"The Recycle Centers will take that material and dispose of it in the appropriate manner," said County Engineer Jim Blackwell.



**Only labeled containers of insecticides, herbicides and fungicides are among the pesticides that are being accepted today from farmers, gardeners and homeowners.**

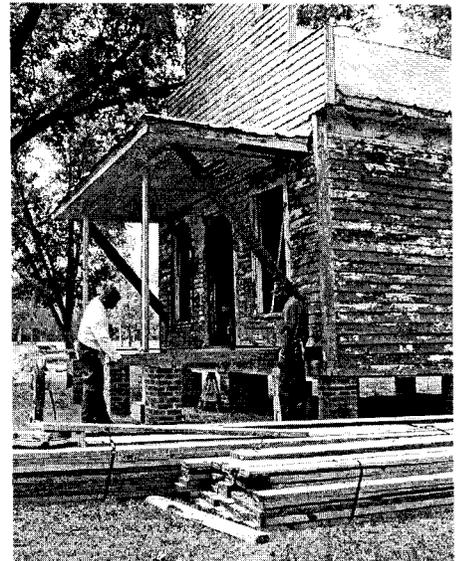
## A.D. Gibson Store gets new porches

Public Buildings staff began work on the first of three porches that will be added to the front, side and back of the A.D. Gibson Store.

The store was relocated in March from its original McFarland Road location to the John Blue House grounds.

The store was placed on a brick foundation, and numerous volunteers have stripped away the store's old paint.

Plans are for the store to be ready for tours by visitors in time for the John Blue Cotton Festival October 12 to 13.



## Post Scripts

Congratulations to Commissioner **Clint Willis** and **Doris Johnston**, who were reappointed Chair and Vice Chair, respectively, of the DSS Board of Directors. ✂ Best wishes to **Robert Sanford** on his retirement as Director of Veteran Service. "It's been a pleasure to work with the County," he said. "Everybody has been mighty nice to me." **Mildred Williams** has been named Acting Director. ✂ There's a lot to be said for the written word since more than 2,500 books were read as part of the summer reading program at Scotland Memorial Library. ✂ County supervisors wish to thank Commissioner **Nancy Shelley** for taking the time to join them in recent budget work session discussions and for her generosity in providing a lunch buffet. ✂ Now for news from the Health Department. Best wishes to **Cassandra Jordan**, LPN, in her new position with HealthKeeperz (formerly Scotland Home Health, Inc.). Condolences to **Robin Quick** and **Judy McMillan** MLT, on the deaths of their fathers. Welcome back to **Karen Altomare**, RD, who took an extended vacation touring the East Coast with her family. We all wish **Violet Moore** a speedy recovery from recent surgery. Congratulations to **Mary Armstrong**, who was nominated as the June Employee of the Month. Best wishes to **Ola Loyd** in her new endeavors. ✂ Congratulations to DSS Social Worker **Charlotte Gibson** and her husband, Jamie, on the July 21 birth of their daughter Lacey Abigail Gibson.

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.