



SCOTLAND COUNTY MONTHLY

JULY 2004

A newsletter for Scotland County employees

Some local race results official in Primary



A citizen votes with ease curbside using the portable electronic voting machine. Early Vote Assistant Alana Richards was on hand to help.

The governing body is prepared to welcome at least four new Commissioners in December, the result of this month's One-stop Voting and Primary Election.

They are Joyce McDow, who defeated Wayne Bryant in the contest for the At-Large seat being vacated by David Burns.

John T. Alford defeated incumbent Sam T. Snowdon for the Laurel Hill Township seat.

The Stewartsville Township seat will be filled by Clarence McPhatter, who defeated incumbent Clint Wills.

McPhatter served previously on the Board of Commissioners from 1996 to 2000.

Candidate Leon Butler's name was not on the July ballot because he is running uncontested for the Williamson Township seat being vacated by Nancy Shelley.

The Register of Deeds race resulted in a win for Debra Holcomb over Walter Rogers.

Register of Deeds Jane Callahan announced her retirement this year after 28 years of service.

Only those candidates who did not have opposition and those candidates who were voted in on July 20 will be listed on the November 2 ballot.

The deadline for submitting any write-in petitions to the Board of Elections is August 4.

Prison presence boosts local economy

Since its August 2003 opening, Scotland Correctional Institution on McGirts Bridge Road has pumped more than \$720,000 into the local economy to fill its need for services and supplies.

Administrator Don Wood informed the Board of Commissioners recently that 2005 projections are estimated at \$3 million expended locally.

Inmate hospital and pharmacy medical services accounted for the largest expenditure at \$208,207, with electric costs the second greatest expenditure at \$167,217.

Salaries of Scotland County residents employed at the facility account for \$166,807 of total expenditures. There are 403 available positions at the facility, 121 of which are filled locally with the remainder filled by residents from neighboring counties.

Water/sewer at \$96,215 and motor vehicle parts at \$28,435 are fourth and fifth, respectively.

Other expenditures on the part of the institution are for motor vehicle repairs and parts, tires, carpentry hardware, uniform dry cleaning, employee meals, canteen supplies, plants and beautification and cable service.

The average inmate population at the close custody facility is around 950 at a cost to the State of \$67 per inmate per day.

Splash Pad construction delayed



Splash Pad equipment, left, will be stored until construction begins in spring 2005. At right, work continues on the softball fields and soccer fields.

Opening of the Splash Pad, part of Phase I of the Community Recreation Center, has been delayed until May 2005. August 2004 was the date originally set for the Splash Pad to be fully operational.

The delay occurred when the contractor failed to submit drawings and plans on time. Those plans have since been submitted, but not soon enough for a summer opening.

Meanwhile, the County's Public Works Department is on schedule with clearing and grading of land for the baseball and soccer fields at right.

Give the Gift of Life August 3. Details on page 2.

New EMS truck gets practical daily use as an all-purpose vehicle

The 2004 Ford pickup targeted as a quick response vehicle (QRV) for on-call paramedics was put to the test three times its first night in operation. The vehicle, with an estimated \$25,000 price tag, was purchased with a Homeland Security grant.

The QRV replaces a 1993 Crown Victoria with nearly 210,000 on its odometer. It carries all equipment that an ambulance would carry and is used to respond to their caller emergencies while ambulances respond to other calls.

The backup vehicle allows the paramedic to remain at the scene until the ambulance arrives. Since July 1, the vehicle has been used 20 times for on-call purposes.

EMS chose to pair the truck with the on-call paramedics because "it doesn't make sense for it to just sit around," explained Director Roylin Hammond.

"Where an ambulance works every third day as part of the rotation schedule, this vehicle works every day for the on-call paramedic," Hammond said.

The vehicle does have its utilitarian uses, which is towing equipment to an emergency in response to homeland security incidents. Its towing package enables the three-quarter ton pickup to haul trailers with decontamination equipment, radios, emergency equipment and generators. It also seats five people who would be able to operate the equipment at its destination.

The price of the vehicle includes a diesel engine, which makes it operationally and financially more efficient and ensures a longer engine life.



Blood Drive set for August 3

The County will be sponsor a Blood Drive Tuesday, August 3, in the conference room of the Scotland County Annex. Department Heads will receive posters and sign-up sheets for the Blood Drive scheduled from 12:30 p.m. to 5 p.m. Employees are encouraged to give the gift of life.

The County goal is set at 30 pints. Because some donors are deferred, at least 42 who sign up to donate would ensure that the goal is met. As is usually the case, the summer months are critical times for the Red Cross.

The agency recently issued a July 12 press release under the heading, "Red Cross Unable to Supply Enough Blood to Hospitals."

Supplies nationwide are falling below a two-day supply and many below a one-day supply at a time when the demand for blood is critical.

Please respond to this urgent request by the Red Cross and sign-up to donate. Department Heads especially are encouraged to sign up and set an example for staff.

Post Scripts

Wedding bells were ringing this summer for several Scotland County employees! Congratulations to **Mary Ivey** in the Tax Office on her July 17 wedding to Glenn Freeman, **Deanna Snead** in EMS on her June 27 marriage to Richard Carlyle and to **Annie Clark**, Cooperative Extension, on her July 25 marriage to Tony Freeman. ☘ In Health Department news: best wishes to **Carissa Gemar**, Nutritionist, in her new position in the Cumberland County School System. A speedy recovery to **Lisa Locklear RN**, **Carlotta Rivers RN**, **Esther Taylor RN** and **Margaret Nicholson MSW**. Welcome to **Michael Norton**, the new Environmental Health Supervisor. Previously, he worked for Richmond County Health Department and is a Registered Sanitarian and a Licensed Soil Scientist. Congratulations to **Kathie Cox**, Health Educator, for completing her certification as a Car Seat Technician. Kathie completed a week-long training and passed a written examination to achieve this certification. **Winnie Lail RN** successfully completed the Adult Health Physical Assessment course consisting of weeks of classroom work, clinical practice and a written exam. **Larry Herring**, **Brian Lowry** and **Danny Sprouse** were named Employee's of the Month for July because of how they continued their duties and responsibilities with the death of their supervisor in March. Sprouse and Lowry also were recognized for not using any sick leave during the past year. Congratuletaions to the **WIC program** for a successful audit this year. ☘ **Cathy Graham**, Cooperative Extension, attended the 2004 National Conference for the Association of Leadership Educators July 14 to 17 in Memphis, TN. ☘ Health Department staff will join Health Educator **Kathie Cox** August 27 for a class on how to use the Dyna band (stretch band) to promote worksite physical activity. Following instruction, employees will be able to utilize the band in their daily routine to get some physical activity for strength building and flexibility. ☘ **Football/Cheerleading registration** will be held the first full week of August at Scotland Place from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. August 2 to 6 and 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. August 7. Registration fee is \$10 per child.

EMStatistics

EMS Report for June:

Responded to 417

Medical/Trauma calls.

Treated 68 motor vehicle accident patients.

Conducted 1 department tour

Awarded 2 department presentations

Administered 119 blood pressure checks

911 Report Highlights:

Received 1,476 total calls

372 EMS

255 Sheriff's Department

122 Laurinburg Police Department

37 Fire Department

286 hang-up calls

126 wrong numbers

77 open line calls

727 cellular calls

Compiled by

Tommy Hatcher

401(k) rollovers are easy

The following information was provided by the North Carolina Department of the State Treasurer.

Although money in a NC 401(k) Plan is less “liquid” than money in other types of savings accounts, it is nonetheless portable. This means an individual can move money from one retirement account into another with very little effort when a job change occurs.

The smartest way to move money is with a rollover, which is the transfer of an employee’s retirement money from one tax-deferred retirement program into another.

It’s the easiest way to maintain the tax-deferred status of the savings while an individual is still working. An employee can decide how his/her money is invested and the earnings continue to grow tax-deferred, just as they did in the employee’s previous retirement program.

That can be a substantial advantage if the money stays in the account for a number of years.

Why a rollover?

Rolling over money lets the employee maintain his/her assets’ tax-deferred status and allows for the postponement of paying taxes on the money until it is withdrawn, hopefully in retirement when the individual’s tax bracket may be lower.

If the money is not rolled over directly, the employer or the administrator of the program is required by law to withhold 20 percent of an employee’s distribution for federal taxes. If the employee then decide within 60 days to roll over the full amount, that 20 percent must be made up with other assets.

The 20 percent that was withheld will be included on the Form 1099R and credited to the employee when the tax return is filed.

Also, 2001 tax legislation makes it easier to roll over assets into another employer’s program if an employee leaves his/her current job.

For example, pre-tax assets from a 403(b) plan or governmental 457 plan can be rolled over into an NC 401(k) account without restriction — a flexibility that wasn’t permitted prior to the 2001 legislation.

It is now also easier to roll the pre-tax portion of an existing individual retirement account (IRA) into a NC 401(k) account.

Consolidating assets into the NC 401(k) Plan helps align retirement strategy and makes it easier to manage retirement savings.

For example, all retirement assets moved into the Plan would result in the receipt of only one account statement.

Plus, only one account number, one web address and one password would have to be remembered.

To quickly and easily rollover existing retirement assets to the NC 401(k) Plan, call 1-866-NC401K1 or (1-866-624-0151) and ask about rollovers.



Full grown bagworm, *Thyridopteryx ephemeraeformis* (Haworth), Psychidae, LEPIDOPTERA

Complaints of bagworms on the increase this year

Agricultural Extension Agent David Morrison responded to a higher number of bagworm complaints in July than he had in recent years. The approximately 10 calls could mean more bagworm damage for red cedars and leyland cypress next year.

“There could be hundreds of people out there with bagworms who haven’t picked up on them yet,” said Morrison. He suggested the trees should be inspected now for bags, which can be pulled off by hand to prevent more serious problems or even tree death next year. In June, before the bags appear, individuals should look for a worm with a small bag or a cocoon moving on the tree.

General Information

Bagworms are 1/8 to almost 2 inches long depending on age. The head and forward parts are dark and hardened and the rest is paler and soft. Each bagworm is covered by a bag made of white silk with bits of the host plant spun onto the outer surface.

The pupae are dark brown. Male pupae are slender and female pupae are fatter. The pupal stage occurs inside the bag. Female bagworms are wingless, legless and grub-like (they never leave the bag). Males are small, brown hairy moths with dark wings that clear with age. Eggs are spherical or oblong and about 0.8 mm by 1.0 mm. Eggs are found in the mother’s bag inside her pupal cast skins.

Biology

Bagworms occur throughout North Carolina and have a wide host range but are usually associated with arborvitae or juniper. A single bagworm does relatively little harm as it feeds on leaves. Excessive defoliation may kill conifers within one or two seasons. Damage is most noticeable in landscapes rather than woodlands. Occasionally, the silk band with which the bagworms attach themselves to a twig before they pupate girdles the twig as the twig enlarges.

Winter is spent as eggs (500 to 1000) in the mother’s bag. They hatch in May and June. The newly hatched larvae spin down on silken threads and are blown about by the early spring breezes. Most of the larvae land on the original host plant but some small worms may be “ballooned” for some distance on the silk thread.

Upon reaching a suitable host, the worm begins to spin its bag and as it grows, it incorporates some of the host plant foliage into the bag for camouflage. It also enlarges the bag and adds fresh plant material to the outside.

In August the worms mature and molt into the pupal stage. The bag is firmly attached by a sturdy silk band, which the bagworms usually wrap around a twig. During August and September, male moths emerge from their bags to mate. After mating, females lay their eggs inside the pupal cast skins and die.

Apparently when the newly hatched larvae reach a plant which is different from its parents’ host plant, these insects often have difficulty in adapting to it and may die or may produce only a few offspring. After several years of struggling to keep from going extinct, the population may hit on the right combination of genes for the “new” plant and “suddenly” the new plant is covered with bagworms.

Control

The following insecticides are labeled for bagworm control and are suitable for home use: acephate, *Bacillus thuringiensis* B.t. and malathion.

by James R. Baker, North Carolina Cooperative Extension Entomologist Emeritus

the Birthday list for August

1 Cordella Walker (Health) and Alvin Martin (DSS);
2 Christopher Bennett (Jail) and Jennie Lowe (DSS);
4 Bill McMillan (Administration) and Hazel McPhatter (Cooperative Extension); 5 Michael McQueen (EMS) and Gene Jackson (Public Buildings); 7 Richard Ammons (Sheriff); 8 James Horne (Public Works); 9 Deloris McNeil (Health); 10 Stephen Oxendine (Public Works); 11 Abby Massey (Health); 12 Tracy Rothwell (Jail), James McQueen (Public Buildings) and Julia Everett (Parks and Recreation); 13 David Quick (EMS); 14 Kevin Strickland (EMS) and Joan Alford (DSS); 16 Carolyn Faulk (Jail); 18 Nancy McPeck (Jail) and David Morrison (Cooperative Extension); 20 Mike Nobles (Jail), Andy Kurtzman (Health) and Andrea McLeod (DSS); 22 Towana Harrington (DSS); 24 Michelle McQuaige (Jail); 25 David Blalock (Sheriff) and Larry Goodwin (Public Buildings); 27 Shastity Small (DSS); 28 Tenita Bullard and Linda Harper (DSS); 29 Terena Taylor (Health) and Mitchell Johnson (Sheriff); 30 Robert Wray (Sheriff) and Kimberly McRae (DSS); 31 Mary Hambright (Health).

DSS rearranges offices

Planning a more efficient way to serve its clients, DSS closed its doors June 29 to rearrange offices. DSS opened again June 30. Child Protective Services staff remained on call throughout the June 29 moving day. DSS plans to process Medicaid, food stamps and Work First applications on-line and in one visit.



Introductions & transitions

The following individuals joined Scotland County Departments since April 16: **Dontae Roland**, EMS and **Perry Brooks**, Jail. Working throughout June as Parks and Recreation camp counselors were **Anna Edwards**, **Doug Edwards**, **Jennetta Rainer**, **Jenni Blackwell**, **Julia Everett**, **Kate Edwards**, **Lori Reynolds**, **Melanie Edwards** and **Walter Steele III**. **Vincent Locklear** filled a temporary position in Public Works.

Seniors warned of identity theft

by Joe Knott, DSS

Identity theft was one of several issues on the minds of an estimated 50 senior citizens earlier this year. They joined guest speaker Clint Willis, Scotland County delegate to the North Carolina Senior Tar Heel Legislature, in a town hall discussion of the topic.

Identity theft is a growing problem both in North Carolina and nationally, according to Willis. Currently, the State Attorney General's Office has received more than 400 cases of identity theft.

Willis emphasized throughout the presentation that everyone should know to whom they are providing information and why.

He said Social Security or drivers license numbers should not be included on personal checks because the numbers provide an identity thief with information that can be used to open bank accounts, obtain credit cards, apply for home equity loans and perform numerous other business transactions without your knowing it. He added that often the thief can go undetected for a year or longer.

Requesting a personal credit from the three credit bureaus at least once a year is recommended, Willis said. Fraud departments of credit bureaus and local law enforcement should be notified immediately if anything out of the ordinary is discovered.

Hang up immediately on telephone solicitations where the caller addresses you by your first name and asks for personal information such as Social Security number, bank account or other personal information.

If you think that you have been a victim of identity theft, report it to the police and call 1-800-5-NO-SCAM (1-800-566-7226).

You can also obtain an Identity Theft Victim Kit online at <http://www.jus.state.nc.us/cp/IDTHEFT.htm> or by calling the number listed above.

Legitimate callers will accept a "no" if you wish to hang up because they have many other people to call and will not waste time talking to someone who doesn't want to hear their pitch, Willis said.

He advised seniors to guard personal information and only provide your Social Security number when it is absolutely necessary. If a federal or state agency asks for that information, make certain you know what it is going to be used for and make sure that it is kept confidential.

Willis offered the following tips as protection against identity theft.

Shred old bank statements, insurance forms and any other documents which contain private information once the documents are no longer needed.

Guard your mail. Always place outgoing mail in a postal box instead of in your home mailbox.

Do not leave incoming mail sitting in your home mailbox for long periods — pick it up as soon as possible to avoid someone else from picking it up.

Shred any pre-approved credit card applications or other mail that contains personal information before throwing it away. Cut down on these applications by calling 1-888-5-OPT-OUT (1-888-567-8688).

Once thieves set up accounts they request a change of mailing address, and the victim may not realize what has happened until it is too late. Call 1-800-ASK-USPS (1-800-275-8777) to request a change of address that requires identification.

Read over monthly bills carefully and look for odd charges. If you suspect mail tampering, report it to your local postal inspector. Pay attention to billing cycles for missing bills.