

# Scotland County Monthly

JULY 2005

A newsletter for Scotland County employees



## Commissioners to consider proposal for Lion's Park

A recommendation to reopen Lion's Park in Laurel Hill will be brought before the Board of Commissioners August 1.

The recommendation by the Parks and Recreation Advisory Board comes after citizens from the Laurel Hill area asked that the park be reopened. The citizens listed reopening Lion's Park as a priority at a recent Parks and Recreation Master Plan community forum.

Lion's Park was closed in April as a result of budget and personnel cuts.

The Advisory Board, Laurel Hill Lion's Club and Laurel Hill Fire Department developed a proposal for operating the park, which would minimize some concerns.

According to the proposed agreement, the County's Public Buildings and Grounds Department would mow the grass, line and drag the fields, collect trash when fields are lined and dragged, and collect trash on Fridays throughout the year.

The Parks and Recreation Department would schedule games and practices during the baseball-softball season and provide a field supervisor at all Parks and Recreation activities.

The Laurel Hill Lion's Club, Fire Department and other interested groups would pay utilities as a reimbursement to the County, make all facility repairs, including lights and fences as needed, and sell concessions as desired.

"This is an excellent example of the public and private sectors working together to meet the needs of our citizens," said Advisory Board Chair Becca Hughes.

## Library sets summer record

June was a record month for Scotland Memorial Library, which recorded nearly 14,000 visitors. Library Director Robert Busko said between 10,000 and 11,000 have utilized the Library the same time in prior years.

Busko said June also had a record circulation for books at 13,863. He said normal book circulation is about 8,500 a month.

Busko said the record pace has continued into July. He said the other service points in Wagram and the Bookmobile also reported record numbers thus far.

He said summer programs for the children were particularly popular. The Snakes Alive program, for instance, attracted more than 800 children and adults.

## Take necessary precautions when temperatures soar



**Children at the Splash Pad seek respite from a heat wave where the temperature soared to 107 degrees.**

The parking lot was full at the Splash Pad July 27 as the temperature soared to 107 degrees.

Parks and Recreation Director Shannon Newton said Splash Pad attendance remained steady.

Concession sales of bottled water and other beverages, however, almost doubled.

Splash Pad staffer Walter Steele keeps a spray mist bottle in the refrigerator at the con-

cession area and periodically sprays his face and arms to stay cool.

A former athletic trainer, Steele said it was important to find ways to keep players cool in hot weather.

Steele suggested keeping a wet washcloth in the freezer or placing the washcloth in a cup of water in the refrigerator.

He said rubbing your face, arms, legs and back of your neck with the washcloth is a quick way to cool down.

**See page 3 for more information on caring for yourself and your pets in extreme heat.**

## Commissioners, Education Board reach capital funding agreement

The Board of Commissioners and Board of Education in July reached an agreement, which would ensure sufficient funds to pay school bond debt and provide capital improvement monies to the schools.

The agreement focuses on the use of sales tax revenues and would not affect the tax rate.

Both Boards approved establishing of a separate account with \$1.9 million earmarked for school debt payments.

Interest generated from the account would be dedicated to school capital needs.

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## Area transit stops posted

Effective July 1 the Scotland County Area Transit System (SCATS) reversed its route from counterclockwise to clockwise. Although the same stops are made, the route change was made to incorporate right turns only resulting in a time savings for SCATS drivers, who no longer have to wait for left turn. SCATS stops are listed below:



Woodlawn/Housing Authority  
Dulin Center/Scotland Memorial Hospital  
Holly Square Shopping Center  
Ford Drive/Big Lots  
Scotland Crossing/Food Lion  
Scotland County Complex  
Cedar Trace Apartments  
Wal Mart/West Boulevard  
Winn Dixie/West Boulevard  
Wilmington Street/Raleigh Street  
Hammond Park/Prince Street  
Purcell Clinic/Peden Street  
Library/City Hall/Church Street  
RCC/Atkinson Street  
ESC/Gill Street/John Street  
Alder Drive/Tara Drive  
Tara Drive/Butler Street  
Trad Street/Butler Street  
Ashley Drive/Scarlet Circle  
Samoa/Lee's Mill Road  
Washington Street Store/Berry Street  
Marcellus Street/Speller Street  
Alpha Street/ Tuskegee Drive  
Carver Street/McDuffie Village  
Dickson Street/Main Street  
Main Street/Roper Street  
Main Street/Cronly Street  
East Church Street/Piggly Wiggly  
Stewartville Road/Community Center  
McKenzie Street/Caledonia Road

## Master Plan list announced

Completion of the recreation complex on Turnpike Road was identified by citizens as first of 10 priorities in the Parks and Recreation 25-year Master Plan.

Over the past several months citizen input was welcomed and encouraged as the Parks and Recreation Advisory Board and Master Plan Steering Committee held a series of community forums throughout the County.

The purpose of the forums was to gather citizen opinions on what they perceived as important longterm goals regarding recreation in the County.

Development of a greenway and Stewartville Community Park, promotion of tourism with an emphasis on cultural festivals, East Laurinburg ballfield renovations, the location of picnic areas and rest stops, increased activities for seniors and passive and active activities for youth, promoting joint use of facilities and renovation of remaining community parks rounded out the top 10 goal requests.

Parks and Recreation Director Shannon Newton said the Master Plan is a community plan and not one developed by County staff. "It is what the people in the community have asked for," she said.

## Post Scripts

In Health Department news: Congratulations to **Miriam Bounds** on the July 7 birth of grandson, Charles Turner Bounds. Welcome back to **Margaret Nicholson** and **Sylvia Hughes**. The Health Department is working with State Representative Garland Pierce in coordinating four Community Forums designed to solicit citizen input on issues that affect their health and the health of their community. The forums will be conducted simultaneously on Saturday, August 6 at 10 a.m. at the Laurel Hill Community Center, Gibson Fire Department, Wagram Nutrition Site and Commissioners Chamber in the County Government Complex on West Boulevard. All interested citizens are encouraged to attend. Congratulations to **Deborah Rogers**, Health Check Coordinator, for being selected June Employee of the Month and to **Jennifer Taylor**, Accounts Receivable Coordinator, for being selected July Employee of the Month. Staff enjoyed a presentation during the July 22 meeting with Michele Parnell, Outreach Specialist with the Robeson County Health Department *My Fair Lady Project*. The goal of the project is to decrease the number of Robeson County residents testing positive for syphilis and HIV. ✂ A speedy recovery to **Tommy Hatcher**, EMS. ✂ The DSS Child Support unit hosted a retirement luncheon July 13 for **Helen Darton**, who served more than 25 years between Scotland and Robeson county's. Her last day with DSS was July 26.

**Condolences to Angela Moore**, Health Department, on the death of her uncle.

## Introductions & transitionS

Welcome to those individuals who joined Scotland County departments since May 16, 2005: **Ervin Johnson**, Jail; **Daulton Bethel** and **James Brown**, temporary with Public Works and **James McQueen** part-time with Transportation. **Robert McRae** transitioned from part-time to full-time with Transportation.

## SCOTLAND COUNTY PARKS & RECREATION

Registration for Youth Football/Cheerleading/Soccer 2005 is August 1 to 13 at the following locations:

**Scotland Place** — Turnpike Road, Laurinburg:  
Monday - Friday, 8 a.m. to 5:30 p.m., Saturday, 9 a.m. to 1 p.m.

**Laurel Hill Community Center** — Tuesday,  
August 9, 4 p.m. to 5:30 p.m.

**Gibson Gym** — Wednesday, August 10, 4 p.m. to 5:30 p.m.

**Wagram Murray Park** — Thursday, August 11, 4 p.m. to 5:30 p.m.

Football and cheerleading registrants must be 6 to 13 years old; soccer registrants must be 4 to 13 years old. New participants must bring birth certificates. Fee is \$10 per participant.

## When the heat is on, take precautions

A Mean Heat Index above 85 degrees can be dangerous, making it necessary to watch out for such heat-stress symptoms as dizziness, excessive weakness, headaches, heavy perspiration, high body temperature, irregular heartbeat, loss of consciousness, muscle cramps, nausea, pale and clammy skin (sometimes skin that is red and dry), rapid pulse, rapid shallow breathing and severe mental changes

The young, the elderly and those who are sick or overweight are more likely to succumb to heat illnesses. Because men sweat more than women, they are more likely to become dehydrated.

Whenever possible in cases of extreme heat, stay in an air-conditioned area. If you lack air conditioning, go to the basement or lowest possible floor of your home. Keep curtains closed, windows slightly open and the electric lights off.

Take cool baths or showers and use cool towels. When possible, visit air-conditioned buildings such as the library or retail outlets.

Never leave children or pets alone in a parked car when it's hot outside. The temperature inside a car can rise rapidly in a matter of minutes and result in brain damage or death. Parking in shade offers little protection, as the sun shifts during the day.

If pets have to be outdoors, provide them with plenty of water while making sure they have somewhere they can go to hide from the hot weather. A hot pavement can result in burned paws.

When traveling, carry several gallon jugs filled with fresh, cold water for you and your pet.

Don't wear a lot of clothing in hot weather. Clothes should be light-colored, lightweight, loose-fitting and made of cotton whenever possible.

Apply sunscreen with an SPF rating of 15 or higher when outside, use lip balm and wear a hat. Sunglasses should have an ANSI rating of 99 percent and 98 percent UVA protection.

Drink a minimum of six to eight glasses of cool fluids (such as water, fruit juices and fruit-flavored drinks) even if you're not thirsty. If you're exercising in hot weather, drink two to four glasses of cool fluids per hour. Avoid alcohol or caffeine, which can dehydrate you.

Eat small meals and eat more often during heat waves. Do not eat a lot of food high in protein, which increases metabolic heat. Avoid using cooking ovens.

When the weather is extremely hot, conduct all outdoor activities during the coolest times of the day, which usually is before 10 a.m. and after 3 p.m.

If you are outside engaged in physically strenuous activities, rest often in the shade. Check on any neighbors who may need help, and have them check on you.

## the Birthday list for August

**July 31** Judy McMillan (Health) | Alvin Martin (DSS), Cordella Walker (Health) and Willie Hunt (Public Works); **2** 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** Emily Williams (DSS) and J.R. Horne (Public Works); **9** Deloris McNeil (Health); **10** Stephen Oxendine (Public Works); **11** Abby Massey (Health); **12** Tracy Rothwell (Jail) and James McQueen (Public Buildings); **14** Kevin Strickland (EMS) and Joan Alford (DSS); **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 (Central Services) and Linda Harper (DSS); **29** Terena Taylor (Health) and Mitchell Johnson (Sheriff); **30** Robert Wray (Sheriff) and Kim McRae (DSS); **31** Mary Hambright (Health).

## News of Note

### Sales tax holiday represents savings

If you have children entering or returning to school you might want to take advantage of the State-authorized sales tax holiday, which begins 12:01 a.m. Friday, August 5, and concludes at midnight Sunday, August 7. Sales of the following items are exempt from all State and local sales or use taxes during the sales tax holiday period: clothing with a sales price of \$100 or less per item; school supplies with a sales price of \$100 or less per item; computers with a sales price of \$3,500 or less per item; any sport or recreational equipment with a sales price of \$50 or less per item.

### Employee group meetings scheduled

Scotland County supervisors and employees will have opportunity to learn about the EAP Plan provided by First Health of the Carolinas Employee Assistance Services, which became effective July 1, 2005. Representative Eileen Hodiak will conduct the initial EAP orientation and provide EAP training for County

supervisors. The schedule for the meetings is as follows: Tuesday, August 9, Annex Conference Room, 8 a.m., 10 a.m., 1 p.m. and 3 p.m.; Wednesday, August 10, Commissioners Chamber, 8 a.m., 10 a.m., 1 p.m. and 3 p.m. Session attendance is MANDATORY for supervisors and strongly encouraged for all other employees. Additionally, Prudential representative Kelley Martindale will discuss the NC401(k) Investment Options and focus on diversifying investment selections.

### Blood Drive donors needed

The County will host a Blood Drive Thursday, August 11, from 12:30 to 5 p.m. in the Annex Conference Room. As you may have heard on the radio or on the news, the summer months are critical times for hospital blood supplies. Please make plans to give on this date. Sign up sheets will be made available in each department.



**Dogs at the Humane Society stayed indoors during the extreme heat.**

## Grant helps Library purchase computers

A \$20,056 grant to Scotland Memorial Library has made seven new computers and two printers available to the public.

Matching funds in the amount of \$2,607 will be provided by Friends of the Library or from the Library's current operating expenses.

The computers purchased with Library Services and Technology Act funds were placed in the main Library and feature Internet access and Microsoft Office Suite 2003. The Wagram branch received two computers with DSL hookup for faster Internet access and the two printers.

The computers come with a 17-inch flat-screen monitor, which is a State standard for public library computers, and each machine is filtered by the Child Internet Protection Act.

The estimated 9,000 computer users at the main branch and 1,000 computer users at the Wagram branch check emails, conduct job searches and write resumes and term papers, said Library Director Robert Busko.

Computer use is available in two-hour sessions by appointment.



## Basic facts given on new Medicare prescription drug plan

*Beginning January 1, 2006, new Medicare prescription drug plans will be available to people with Medicare.*

*Insurance companies will work with Medicare to offer these drug plans. They will negotiate discounts on drug prices. These plans are different from the Medicare-approved drug discount cards, which phase out May 16, 2006.*

*Medicare prescription drug plans provide insurance coverage for prescription drugs. Those who join will pay a monthly premium — about \$37 — and pay a share of the cost of prescriptions. Costs will vary depending on the drug plan selected.*

*All drug plans will have to provide at least a standard level of coverage, which Medicare will set. Some plans might offer more coverage and additional drugs for a higher premium.*

**Q. When can I join a Medicare prescription drug plan?**

**A.** If you currently have Medicare Part A (Hospital Insurance) and/or Medicare Part B (Medical Insurance), you can join between November 15, 2005, and May 15, 2006. If you join by December 31, 2005, your Medicare prescription drug plan coverage will begin January 1, 2006. If you join after that, coverage will be effective the first day of the month after the month you join. You can join or change plans once each year between November 15 and December 31.

**Q. What if I can't pay for a Medicare prescription drug plan?**

**A.** Some people with an income at or below a set amount with limited assets will qualify for extra help. People who qualify will get help paying for the monthly premium and/or some of the cost they normally would have to pay for prescriptions.

**Q. Do Medicare prescription drug plans work with all types of Medicare health plans?**

**A.** Yes. There will be Medicare prescription drug plans that add coverage to the Original Medicare Plan and Private-Fee-for-Service-Plans.

**Q. What if I have prescription drug coverage with a supplemental Medigap policy?**

**A.** You will get a detailed notice from your insurance company telling you whether or not your policy covers as much or more than a Medicare prescription drug plan.

*Locally, (SHIIP) volunteers are available to answer your questions and provide free health insurance counseling. Contact SHIIP at Scotland Place at 277-2585 for more information.*

## Youth enjoy nutrition program



Photo by Lynn Poe

Nearly 200 youth from across the County gained an appreciation for Tae Bo and other healthy activities by participating in the Nutritional Fun and Activities for Children Summer 2005 program.

The program focused on physical activity and preparation of healthy foods. Hazel McPhatter, 4H EFNEP Program Assistant, pictured above, took the program on the road and presented it at sites in Wagram, Laurel Hill, Gibson and Laurinburg. McPhatter said the different locations allowed many more youth who lacked transportation to one central site to participate.

## Employee Health Fair planned

Scotland Memorial Hospital in conjunction with FirstCarolinaCare will host a Health Fair August 17 outside the Annex conference room, and by the side entrance of the Health Department August 19 and 24, 7:30 to 11 a.m. all three days.

Blood pressure, triglycerides, cholesterol and blood sugar will be checked. Those who sign up are asked to fast 12 hours before the test. It's okay to take medications and drink black coffee or water during the fasting period. Diabetics should not fast. Results will be made available immediately following the tests.

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.