



SCOTLAND COUNTY MONTHLY

JUNE 2004

A newsletter for Scotland County employees

Parks and Recreation reorganization outlined

An estimated 35 seniors received information on how the dozens of groups they represent would be affected by the Parks and Recreation reorganization.

The Parks and Recreation staff will move from the John Blue House to Scotland Place some time in August.

The Senior Programs Coordinator position was eliminated effective August 13 and youth sports fees instated effective July 1.

Monthly exercise fees for seniors increase from \$10 to \$12. Senior trip fees increase from \$3 to \$6 using County transportation. Bingo fees remain the same at \$1 per day per participant.

Senior games will continue locally, but transportation to the Raleigh games will no longer be available.

Meeting and club dates at Scotland Place would not change.

The storage closet in Scotland Place will be refurbished for office space. Club equipment from the closet will be placed in a soon-to-be-built locked storage shed behind Scotland Place.

The John Blue House will become the responsibility of its owners, the Historic Properties Commission.

FY 2004-2005 tax rate set at \$1.10

The Scotland County tax rate of \$1.10 per \$100 valuation became effective July 1 with the passage the FY 2004-2005 budget, which totals \$37,929,979. Total General Fund is \$28,259,682 for 55.6 cents on the tax rate, while the School Fund is \$9,670,297 for 54.4 cents on the tax rate. A cost of living allowance and step increases were not included in the budget.

Setting the tax rate at \$1.10 resulted in a reduction in force by six positions, the downsizing of some services and the discontinuance of several programs.

There will be additional revenue for Parks and Recreation through a youth athletics fee schedule, which is set at \$10 per child. There will be a \$25 charge per week for the summer camp program.

The Finance Committee, chaired by Commissioner Clint Willis, originally presented a fiscal budget with a proposed \$1.15 tax rate.

The Board of Commissioners directed Commissioner Clint Willis and Finance Committee members, Commissioners Betty Blue Gholston and Charles "Scooter" Jordan, to work with Department Heads to find areas for further reductions.

The additional proposed budget cuts of \$1,049,606 worked to reduce the tax rate from \$1.15 to \$1.10.

EMS proposed to delay the purchase of a new ambulance for the second consecutive year. The agency also will not purchase new uniforms this year.

The Sheriff's Department will purchase three patrol vehicles instead of five. It eliminated funding for four vacant law enforcement positions until January 1, 2005 and reduced the cost of Jail medical services and food and provisions.

see Budget, page 4



The FY 2004-2005 Budget Plan was the newsmaker in June attracting quite a bit of local media attention. Chairman David L. Burns, above, is interviewed by WBTW reporter Tasha Oxendine.

Reactivated fund-raising group plans support for community center

The reactivated Scotland County Recreation Foundation, Inc., this year will focus its efforts on raising funds for the community recreation complex.

Established 23 years ago, the Foundation had become intermittently inactive over the past decade.

An *ad hoc* committee of the group rallied in the 1990s in order to raise money so the community to come together and build Scotland Yard on Turnpike Road neighboring Scotland Place.

Now that it's been reactivated, the Foundation will update its bylaws, elect officers and formulate plans for fund-raising efforts.

Funds raised would support the construction of outdoor fields at the community recreation complex as well as picnic shelters and a walking path.

Foundation members include Terry Garner, Bill McIlwain, Janna Wegner, David McLamb, Anzell Harrell, Sr. and Earl Bowling.

THERE'S MORE INSIDE

Meth labs pose hazards page 2

2004 grads celebrate page 3

Callahan recognized page 4



Meth labs pose safety hazards

Methamphetamine is cheap, better, lasts longer than crack cocaine and brings in huge profits, all of which could add up to a dangerous community wide problem.

Knowledge and training is the best defense against the proliferation of clandestine methamphetamine labs, and their numbers can be reduced depending on community response.

State SBI Special Agent P. Duane Deaver met with EMS, public health, social services and law enforcement groups to discuss what materials are associated with clandestine meth labs. He also warned of the dangers meth labs present to the public in general and those whose job it is to visit homes.

A meth lab, where the drug is cooked, is very different from those 10 or 15 years ago, Deaver explained. They looked like chemistry labs then, and today they just look like dirty kitchens.

Some are mobile with materials packed in a camera case or suitcase, transported in vehicles from client to client. There is a trend, though, toward setting up clandestine labs in motel rooms, self storage units and underground rooms. Deaver explained, "Meth labs can be hidden anywhere."



State SBI Special Agent P. Duane Deaver, right, chats with Health Director Jane Murray and Laurinburg Exchange reporter Bennett Holleman during a break.

He added, "Meth is dangerous, and it makes crack look like candy." Methamphetamine ingredients, and the tools used to produce it, are readily available in stores and on the Internet.

According to Deaver, they include such common items as cold tablets, iodine, battery acid, coffee filters, drain cleaner, matches, lithium batteries, rock salt, liter bottles and gallon jugs, propane cylinders, starting fluid, fuel line freeze up, paint thinner, sun tea containers and rubber tubing.

"Many of these things we normally see for household use," Deaver said. He warned that when anyone sees large quantities of these items that are not consistent with normal use, then local law enforcement should be notified.

Deaver added that meth labs have a "distinct, pungent, strong odor." He described some of the odors as similar to antiseptic, vinegar, fuel, paint cleaner, ammonia, dirty socks and cat urine.

Ingredient recipes used in meth labs are highly toxic and flammable, can cause severe burns to the skin and eyes and can be fatal if its gases are inhaled.

Deaver added that clandestine meth labs are harmful to the environment because their operators will dump leftover hazardous liquids into the soil.

In North Carolina in 2000, 12 clandestine meth labs were reported. As of June 2004, 155 were reported. Although none have been reported in Scotland County, Deaver said, "Just because no lab has been reported doesn't mean your County is clean."

He said, "This is a community problem, and a community wide approach to the problem can overcome it. If you prepare, you can deal with it. If not, you will be overwhelmed."

Commemorative marker finds permanent place in park

The marker commemorating the contribution of land for Hammond Park has found a permanent place at the corner of Peden and Azure Court.

Up until now the marker, which recognizes the gift of the 5.4 acre parcel of land by the late Nettie and Lonnie Hammond, Sr., had been moved several times.

Placing a permanent marker was paid for from a special fund established by the couple, which is earmarked for park improvements. That project, plus updating the bathroom facilities, has exhausted what remains in the fund.

The park improvement fund was given in memory of the couple's son, Lonnie Hammond, Jr., who served in the Air Force and was killed in France during World War II.

The Hammonds originally donated the land to the City of Laurinburg in 1925. The County in 1973 assumed responsibility for Hammond Park, which coincided with the establishment of the Parks and Recreation Department.



Text on the marker reads, "Hammond Park is a place of beauty, blooming with flowers and trees — a sanctuary for birds, for rest and relaxation for all."

Local group brings medals back from 4-H District Activity Day

Scotland County 4-H members were among the 14 counties in the South Central District who participated in the annual Activity Day competition in Chatham County.

Competition in presentation areas included cooking, forestry, photography, public speaking, health and safety, as well as a talent category.

A delegation of 25 4-H leaders, members, agents, parents and judges attended 4-H District Activity Day from Scotland County.

The delegation earned two gold medals, three silver medals and three bronze medals.

"We are really proud of our 4-H youth," said Sharon English, local Extension Agent for 4-H Youth Development. "All of Scotland County 4-H'ers placed in the top three in their respective categories. We look forward to advancing to the State level at 4-H Congress in next month."

Winning top honors in the district competition were Ashley Bethea, Beef Char-Grill; and Mary Lauren Tardif, Public Speaking.

District silver medalists were Irene Davidson, Breads; Brooke Hunter, Public Speaking; and DeAngelo Byrd, Veterinary Science.

Bronze medals were presented to Brittany York, Public Speaking; Daquan and Shautel Chavis, Dairy Foods; and Shanice Daniels, Dairy Foods.

District gold winners will represent Scotland County at the State level competition held during the North Carolina 4-H Congress July 19 to July 23.

Citizens test voting machine



Republican Committee Chairman Hal Culberson reviews a sample ballot on electronic voting equipment WinVote System. By 2006, the State has mandated that all of North Carolina must vote on new electronic systems. The Board of Elections invited the public to visit June 17 in order to inspect, test and comment on the system.

Intern receives lessons from environmental health staff

Jiang He came halfway around the world to continue his education. The soon to be 23-year-old intends eventually to return to China, his native country, to put into practice all he has learned here.

From May through July Jiang He is assisting the environmental health staff as part of an internship with UNC-Pembroke, where he is pursuing a Masters in Public Health Administration.

As part of his internship, Jiang He, who calls himself Grant, has accompanied Environmental Health Specialists Brian Lowery and Danny Sprouse as they inspected water samples, wells, septic tanks, swimming pools, restaurants and hotels.

Grant is encouraged by what he's learned so far. "I enjoyed learning about the process of how to build a well and inspection of water quality."

Lowery praised his intern. "He's been a big help. He's not afraid to get a little dirty on the job, and he likes to assist the contractors with what they are doing."

Grant already has an impressive academic record. He earned Bachelor of Science degrees in chemistry and in economics from Peking University. His goal is to one day earn a Ph.D. in public policy from the University of North Carolina-Chapel Hill.

Once accomplished, Grant said, "I think I can find a good job back in China where people are needed to write and plan good policy for the country."

Although most of his time is spent in the classroom and studying, he has managed to experience some things that are truly part of the American culture. "Brian (Lowery) bought me my first hot dog at Bill's Place in Maxton, and I loved it."



Jiang He, standing, with Brian Lowery.

Best of luck, Class of 2004!

Congratulations to the following graduates and their families:

High School

Administration: Crystal Bowen, daughter of Robert Bowen, Scotland High School. Crystal will attend UNC-Pembroke.

Cooperative Extension: Tequisa McPhatter, daughter of Hazel McPhatter, Scotland High School. Tequisa will attend A&T University.

DSS: Samantha Tynesha Webb, daughter of Debra Webb, Purnell Swett High School. Samantha will attend East Carolina University.

Donna L. Johnson, daughter of Sarah J. McQueen, Scotland High School. Donna will attend UNC-Pembroke.

Dustin Adam Locklear, son of Denise Locklear, Scotland High School. Dustin will attend UNC-Wilmington.

Lee Parker Shutt, son of Libby Shutt, Marlboro Academy. Lee will attend Wofford College.

Donna Lana Johnson, daughter of Sarah McQueen, Scotland High School. Following basic training, Donna will work as a physical therapist at the Navy hospital in San Diego.

Health Department: Mia Armstrong, daughter of Mary Armstrong, Scotland High School. Mia will attend Methodist College.

Teresa Ruiz, daughter of San Juana "Janie" Ruiz, Richmond Senior High School. Janie will attend Fayetteville Technical College.

Christina Cox, daughter of Mary Cox, Scotland High School. Christina will attend NC State University on the prestigious Park Scholarship.

Samantha Noelle Cox, daughter of Kathie Cox, Scotland High School. Samantha will attend Georgia Southern University.

Roxanne Kurtzman and **Chelsea Kurtzman**, daughters of Andy Kurtzman (Health) and Ann Kurtzman (Administration), Scotland High School.

Roxanne will attend Appalachian State University. Chelsea will attend UNC-Greensboro.

Chastity Tew, daughter of Lisa Tew, graduated from Scotland High School. Chastity will attend Richmond Community College.

College or University

Health Department: Sterling Leaven, son of Frances Moody, magna cum laude, North Carolina A&T State University College of Engineering with a Bachelor of Science in Electrical Engineering.

Will Salley, son of Melinda Salley, NC State University with a Bachelor of Science in Paper Science Engineering and a Bachelor of Science in Chemical Engineering.

Amanda Sprouse, daughter of Danny Sprouse, East Carolina University with a Masters in Counseling.

Tax Department: Maria Renee Dudley, daughter of Catherine Stubbs, Richmond Community College with a degree in Health Care Management.

Mary Elizabeth Norton, daughter of Mary Helen Norton, East Carolina University with a Bachelor of Science in Elementary Education.

EMStatistics

EMS Report for May:

Responded to 387 Medical/Trauma calls.

Treated 56 motor vehicle accident patients.

Provided 7 medical coverages

Conducted 1 department tour

Administered 89 blood pressure checks

911 Report Highlights:

Received 1,592 total calls

354 EMS

329 Sheriff's Department

110 Laurinburg Police

Department

41 Fire Department

354 hang-up calls

110 wrong numbers

91 open line calls

679 cellular calls

Compiled by Tommy Hatcher

Post Scripts

Frances Moody's daughter, Laquandra Leaven, was selected to participate in the National Aeronautics Space Administration's Student Apprenticeship Program this summer. The program will be held at the University of Michigan. Laquandra is going to ~~be a chemical engineer researcher for the summer.~~ Congratulations to **Tina Oxendine** RN for being named as the agency's Preparedness & Response/Communicable Disease Supervisor. **Angela Moore**, RN, BSN was selected to assume Oxendine's previous position as Communicable Disease Coordinator. The Health Department wished **Lisa Locklear** a speedy recovery and extends best wishes to

Mary Cox on her future endeavors. ☼ Congratulations to **Wanda Sheppard** in the Tax Office, who is grandmother to Laney Faith Ray, born May 29. ☼ News from EMS includes the following employment anniversaries: **Deanna Snead**, 17 years; **Tommy Hatcher**, 13 years; **Doug Calhoun**, 11 years; and **Robert Sampson**, 8 years. A big thanks to **Mac Tucker** for the Hawaiian Luau he hosted at his home as a way to honor EMS employees during EMS Week. The annual Harley Motorcycle Rally at Myrtle Beach was well attended by EMS staff including **Randy McArthur**, **Kevin Strickland**, **Amy Ratley** and **Dave Ratley**, **Darrin Floyd**, **Mike Clark** and **Melanie Clark**, and **Sandy Lockey** and **Morrison Lockey**. EMS wishes **Kevin Strickland** a speedy recovery. All of the EMS family opens their hearts to **Randy McArthur** and his family on the loss and Randy's mother, Sara Beth McArthur.

Callahan recognized



Register of Deeds Jane Callahan received the Department Head of the Year Award for 2003-2004 from Chairman David L. Burns. Callahan served as Register of Deeds for nearly 28 years. Instead of running for reelection, Callahan has opted to retire, effective December 1.

FY 2004-2005 budget process concludes

continued from page 1

Parks and Recreation will consolidate by relocating staff from the John Blue House to Scotland Place in order to save on rent and cost of utilities.

Planning and Zoning will merge with Inspections.

The Health Department discontinued the Breast and Cervical Cancer Control Program, HIV Case Management and Wise Woman, a cardiovascular health intervention program for women of low income. Five public health positions will go unfilled in FY 2004-2005.

The Board of Commissioners had little flexibility when it came to budget cuts. The governing body is legally obligated by the State to provide local funding for mandates -- Scotland County Schools, Medicaid, the Jail and Health.

Those mandated programs, plus the school debt payment, accounted for \$1.02 on the tax rate.

Commissioner Clint Willis, who also is serving as Interim Budget Officer, said that unless there is a marked improvement in the tax base, the minimum tax rate would be \$1.02 just to pay the mandates. He estimated, though, that the mandate obligation by FY 2005-2006 could jump to \$1.05.

He said it's the hope of the Finance Committee that this year's budget would leave some flexibility for those who would be serving as Commissioners in 2005.

McPhatter brings 4-H experience to camp

Tequisa McPhatter, a 4-H member for more than five years, is serving as a camp counselor this summer at Millstone 4-H Camp in nearby Ellerbe. Her final three weeks as a counselor will be spent at Swannanoa 4-H Camp in Asheville.



Tequisa McPhatter

A graduate of Scotland High School, Tequisa is a member of the Service Seekers 4-H Club, has served in many 4-H County Council officer positions and actively participates in county, district and state 4-H events.

As a 4-H Camp Counselor, Tequisa is responsible for full supervision of her cabin group at all times — in the cabin, at flag raising and lowering, during meals and throughout the activities of the day and evening.

In addition, camp counselors assist with activities, evening programs, camp cleanup, instruction and the opening and closing of the camp each week.

the Birthday list for July

1 Carissa Gemar (Health); **3** Shelia Jackson (Tax); **4** Tim Martin (DSS); **7** J.R. Willis (Commissioner); **9** Helen Hardwick (Board of Elections); **10** Chris Coleman and Chris Hunt (Sheriff) and Denise Locklear (DSS); **11** Samara Pegues (DSS); **14** Linda Graham (DSS); **16** Juanita Bowen (Cooperative Extension); **18** Doug Calhoun (EMS); **19** Billy Bostick (Public Buildings), Patricia Lathrop (EMS), Marcus Norton (Planning and Zoning), and Allison Raber (DSS); **21** Jenny Church (DSS); **23** Elaine Harrison (DSS) and Judy Riggins (Board of Elections); **25** Mildred Williams (Veterans Service); **26** Jeffrey Wood (DSS); **27** Priscilla McInnis (DSS); **28** Ken Smith (Jail), Delores Baxley (Parks and Recreation), and Vincent Locklear (Public Works); **29** Kevin Patterson (Administration); **30** Wanda Britt (Transportation); **31** Jan-Marie Fesmire (DSS) and Judy McMillan (Health).

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.