

Scotland County Monthly

JUNE 2005

A newsletter for Scotland County employees



Crumpton named County Manager

John Crumpton will be the new Scotland County Manager effective early August.



John Crumpton

Currently a marketing representative with the North Carolina Association of County Commissioners (NCACC), Crumpton has extensive experience in solid waste management having worked as General Manager of Republic Services of North Carolina in Wilmington for six years and as General Manager of ARS -- Waste Management in Darlington, SC, for five years.

Crumpton served as Town Manager in Morrisville, Town Administrator in Emerald Isle and Assistant Town Administrator in Elizabethtown. He also was Finance Director in Lee County.

Crumpton earned an MBA from UNC-Wilmington, a Bachelor of Business Administration with a major in Marketing from Georgia State University in Atlanta and a BS in public Finance and Administration from Indiana University in Bloomington.

Announcement of Crumpton's appointment was made by the County Commissioners June 28.

SCATS alters route

Scotland County Area Transit System (SCATS) will reverse its 12.5 mile fixed Rural General Public (RGP) route from a counterclockwise to a clockwise direction. "SCATS BUS STOP" signs will be placed at each of the 30 stops.

The route will continue to operate Monday through Friday from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. It includes most of the same stops with a few new additions. The cost remains \$1.

"The main reason for the change is to make the route more time efficient," explained EMS Director Roylin Hammond. "We hope to accomplish this by making fewer left turns at congested areas such as at shopping center entrances and busy intersections."

The route usually transports 35 to 40 riders a day with as many as 75 on some days, depending upon the weather. The route, which has been in place for several years, is funded through a State Rural General Transportation grant.

The 1994 24-passenger bus that follows the route is scheduled for replacement this year with a new 22-passenger bus equipped with a wheelchair lift. The new bus also will be funded through a North Carolina Department of Public Transportation grant.

Tax rate stays at \$1.10

The Board of Commissioners held the tax rate at \$1.10 for the second consecutive year when it passed the FY 2005-2006 Budget Ordinance June 14.

More than \$1 million was trimmed from the budget to accommodate escalating appropriations for Medicaid and the school local current expense, which the Commissioners are required by law to fund.

For the third year in a row, there will be no cost of living increase for County employees. Like last year, the Commissioners did approve three extra days off between Christmas and New Year's, a gesture that was positively received by employees.

December 27, 28 to 29 were approved as the extra days. The Commissioners also agreed that New Year's Day would fall on December 30 instead of January 1, to maximize the number of consecutive days off.

Total General Fund expenditures of \$27,891,213 account for 54.3 cents on the total tax rate while the remaining 55.7 cents, or \$9,848,584, will fund the schools.

Agency plans information sessions on Animal Control Ordinance

Over the next few months the Health Department will host a series of community forums and distribute brochures outlining the specifics of the new Animal Control Ordinance, which becomes effective September 1.

Approved June 6 by the Board of Commissioners, the new ordinance is more aggressive in methods to control dog bites compared to an older ordinance. The County's Animal Control Officer investigated 44 dog bites in 2003, and 40 were investigated in 2004.

A Vicious Dog Community Watch Program will be implemented to complement to the Ordinance.

Health Director Jane Murray said, "The Board of Health and the County Commissioners listened to the concerns of citizens and felt the new Animal Control Ordinance was necessary to protect children and residents against aggressive and vicious dogs."

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Best of luck, Class of 2005

Congratulations to the following graduates and their families:

High School

Adminstration: Jeffery Brian Tindall, grandson of Anne G. Tindall, Scotland High School.

DSS: Amber M. Quick, daughter of Michelle Campbell, Scotland High School. Amber plans to attend Sandhills Community College to study Cosmetology. **Chantel Euraine Russell**, daughter of Lisa McPhatter and Commissioner Clarence McPhatter, Roosevelt High School in Washington, D.C. Chantel plans to attend the University of DC. **Jamie O'Brien McNeil**, son of Sandra McNeil, Scotland High School. Jamie will attend Fayetteville State University in the fall, majoring in Sports/Physical Therapy.

EMS: Christopher Kyle Miller Hatcher, son of Tommy Hatcher, Richmond Senior High School. Christopher will attend Richmond Community College. **Codi Leigh McArthur**, daughter of Randy McArthur, Scotland High School. Codi will attend Richmond Community College, majoring in Art.

Health Department: Laquanda Leaven, daughter of Frances Moody, Marlboro County High School. Laquanda will attend the University of Michigan on a four-year scholarship. She plans to major in Chemical Engineering. **Adam Holland**, son of Linda Holland, Scotland High School. Adam will attend UNC-Pembroke, majoring in Elementary Education. **Lacey Murray**, daughter of Jane Murray and granddaughter of Herman Gillis, E-911, Scotland High School. Lacey will attend UNC-Wilmington, majoring in Elementary Education/Special Education.

Sheriff's Department: Robby Skamperle, son of Dan Skamperle and Sandy Skamperle, DSS, Scotland High School. Robby plans to attend University of North Carolina at Wilmington.

College/ University

DSS: Matthew Skamperle, son of Sandy Skamperle and Dan Skamperle, Sheriff's Department, University of North Carolina at Wilmington with a Bachelor of Arts in Law Enforcement.

EMS: Katherine Mosley Hammond, daughter of Roylin Hammond, UNC Chapel Hill with an A.B. Ed. in Middle School Education.

Health Department: John A. Nicholson III, son of Margaret Nicholson, graduated in December 2004 from the University of South Carolina with a Bachelor of Arts in International Studies.

Public Buildings: Heather Nicole Locklear, daughter of Ricky Locklear, Richmond Community College with an Associate Degree in Nursing

Post Scripts

Congratulations to Jesse Loclear, son of **Vincent Locklear**, Public Works, for a winning Campbell University Basketball Camp session.

Jesse received awards for Camper of the Day, Hot Shot Champion and Free Throw Champion. ⌘ William Chris Gainey, Jr., and Christina Dawn Williams were married June 18 at Pleasant View Presbyterian Church in Laurinburg. Chris is the son of **Terry Gainey**, Scotland Soil and Water Conservation District. ⌘ In Health Department news: Congratulations to **Barbara Mack RN** for being selected April Employee of the Month and to **Debbie Maske RN** for being selected May Employee of the Month. Welcome back to **Lucy Walters**. Speedy recovery to **Margaret Nicholson**, **Sylvia Hughes** and **Van McArthur**. Best wishes to **Violet Moore**.



Three Scotland County paramedics who completed decontamination training with the Duke Hospital SMAT II team brought their skills home to train local First Responders with the Decontamination Equipment purchased with Homeland Security funding. Pictured, paramedics Wayne Mace, right, and Donte' Roland are inside the County's mobile decon shelter demonstrating how a non-ambulatory patient would be decontaminated. Dennis Currie, the third SMAT II trained paramedic, along with Mike Edge and Roylin Hammond will meet with Scotland Memorial Hospital personnel in June and July to coordinate future decontamination training.

Condolences to the Health Department's **Abby Massey** on the death of her father. The Health Department was deeply saddened by the sudden and tragic death of **Janie Ruiz** and her husband, Ronnie. Janie worked at the agency for nearly two years as a Processing Assistant and Interpreter. Janie touched many lives with her kindness and humble demeanor. She will be greatly missed. Our thoughts and prayers are with the family.

Drivers hone evacuation skills



Scotland County Area Transit System (SCATS) driver Steve Yearns pulls a 90-pound dummy from a van during a rollover/evacuation training. Six drivers practiced exit maneuvers in the event a transportation van overturns. Instructor Roylin Hammond said the van, a surplused County vehicle, will next be used by the Rescue Squad for extrication practice.

Board of Commissioners meet Monday, July 11, 7 p.m., Commissioners Chamber, 1405 West Boulevard

Common problems associated with centipede decline explained

by David Morrison, Agricultural Extension Agent

Centipede decline is a name used to describe the most common problems observed on centipedegrass. These include dollar spot, large patch, fairy rings, nematodes, ground pearls and nutritional problems. Intensive management over a period of four to five years results in root dieback in the spring. Root dieback reduces shoot growth and results in the death of large patches of the lawn. This condition is aggravated by thatch accumulation, which results in new stolons growing several inches above the soil surface.

Proper management, with an emphasis on maintenance of a viable root system, is the best solution to this condition. This includes irrigation during drought stress, maintaining a mowing height of 1.5 inches, prevention of thatch accumulation and adherence to low fertility rates.

Dollar spot is a disease often seen on centipedegrass during the summer. Symptoms are light brown spots two to four inches in diameter. It does not appear to cause serious damage. Centipedegrass that is declining because of other factors may have more dollar spot than nearby healthy grass.

Large patch has been identified on centipedegrass during wet weather in the spring, summer and fall. The symptoms in cool, wet weather are usually large circular patches of thin grass. Early symptoms may be circular yellow patches. The grass may continue to decline in the affected patches, especially in dry weather, for a long time after the disease activity has stopped. Some fungicides may help control these diseases, including Banner Maxx, Bayleton, Eagle, Prostar or Heritage. Applied in the early fall, they should provide acceptable control the following spring.

Fairy rings also cause some centipede decline problems. Symptoms are large circular dead spots, dead rings, or green rings (3 to 20 feet in diameter) that enlarge for several years. Mushrooms of the fungi that cause this disease may be present at the edge of the rings or throughout the circles sometime during the year. Mushrooms may not develop for several years and suddenly appear following a weather pattern that induces mushroom development. Effective treatments are not known for fairy rings in lawns. Rototilling the soil and replanting healthy grass eliminates the problem in some cases.

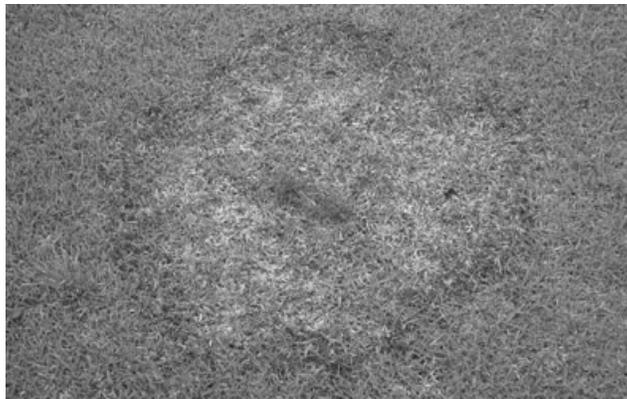
Nematodes are associated with the decline in sandy soils in some cases. The sting nematode may cause very serious damage on centipedegrass in sandy soils in southeastern North Carolina. Centipedegrass affected by this nematode becomes thin and even dies during hot-dry weather. Since no nematicides are currently labeled for use in residential lawns, management practices help overcome damage from nematodes. A management program that includes irrigation when needed can be used to overcome the effect of the ring nematode but not the sting nematode. Another grass such as bermudagrass or bahiagrass may be an alternative to use in centipede lawns with high levels of sting nematodes. Incorporation of organic matter in the soil may help overcome nematode damage; however, care must be taken to avoid too much nitrogen being released for centipedegrass.

Ground pearls are small insects that attack the roots of centipedegrass causing circular dead areas that resemble fairy ring. The spots enlarge each year, and only weeds grow in the spots. Ground pearls are identified by the presence of small pearl-like bodies on the roots or in the soil. The pink adult stage that crawls is present during early summer. A control is not known for the ground pearls. Bermudagrass or bahiagrass appear to be less sensitive to ground pearls and should be considered for lawns with severe ground pearl problems.

Nutritional factors, including low potassium levels in sandy soils, high phosphorus levels, the use of too much nitrogen fertilizer, and low or high soil pH (5.5 is best) have been associated with centipede decline. High soil pH will cause centipedegrass to turn bright yellow, especially in the spring, due to iron deficiency. Fertilizers containing iron and a combination material of ammonium sulfate and ferrous sulfate are available.

Centipedegrass is very sensitive to some herbicides. Damage has been observed where fertilizers containing some types of herbicides have been applied at rates suggested for other types of turfgrasses. Once a good stand of centipedegrass is established, weeds usually are not a problem because of the allelopathic activities that centipedegrass has against other plants. Therefore, herbicides should not be needed each year on centipedegrass if it is managed properly.

For further information go to <http://www.turffiles.ncsu.edu> and search under publications.



Symptoms of large patch (above) are light brown spots two to four inches in diameter. Fairy rings (below) are large circular dead spots, dead rings, or green rings (3 to 20 feet in diameter) that enlarge for several years.



News of Note

Pay taxes on time for savings

Taxpayers who pay their taxes, including special district levies, on or before August 31, 2006, will receive a one percent discount. The Board of Commissioners in April approved a resolution, which allowed for the discount. The action received support from the State Department of Revenue.

Pre-pay tax plan offered

County employees can pre-pay their Scotland County real and personal property taxes through payroll deduction effective with the July pay period. The free service does not include motor vehicle taxes. Pre-pay tax payments are spread in installments over six months beginning in July and ending with the December pay period. The Tax Office has authorization forms for employees who wish to participate. The form must be returned to the Tax Office by July 8.

Health Department meets with poultry growers

The Health Department responded to citizen concerns about poultry farms by meeting with two producers, Mountaire and Perdue. Producers assured the Health Department of their adherence to operating guidelines and standards adopted in 1994, which govern the distances facilities must be from residences, schools and churches. Health Director Jane Murray said the meeting was a positive one in that the agency feels comfortable notifying poultry growers when there are citizen complaints or concerns.



Commissioner John Alford, Finance Officer/ Assistant Count Manager Kevin Patterson and Commissioners Joyce McDow and Betty Blue Gholston, left to right, traveled to Raleigh June 28 to speak with legislators about Medicaid reform. North Carolina is the only State that requires its counties to shoulder a percentage of the cost of Medicaid. Medicaid reform might mean a future decrease in the County's tax rate.

Introductions & transitions

Welcome to those individuals who joined Scotland County departments since March 16, 2005: **Daniel Kirkley** and **Nicole Shipman**, part-time with EMS and **Nyree Charette** temporary with DSS.

the Birthday list for July

3 Shelia Jackson (Tax); **4** Tim Martin and Terri Phillips (DSS); **7** J.D. Willis (Commissioner) and Walter Steele (Parks and Recreation); **9** Helen Hardwick (Elections); **10** Chris Coleman and Chris Hunt (Sheriff) and Denise Locklear (DSS); **11** Samara Pegues (DSS); **14** Linda Graham (DSS); **18** Doug Calhoun (EMS) and Kimberly Locklear (Health); **19** Billy Bostick (Public Buildings); **21** Jenny Church (DSS); **23** Elaine Harrison (DSS) and Judy Riggins (Elections); **25** Mildred Williams (Veterans Service); **26** Jeff Wood (DSS); **27** Dave Raley (Health Board); **28** Ken Smith (Jail), Delores Baxley (Parks and Recreation) and Vincent Locklear (Public Works); **29** Kevin Patterson (Administration) and Miriam Bounds (Health); **30** Wanda Britt (Transportation); **31** Jan-Marie Fesmire (DSS) and Lynda McMillan (Health).

<h3>EMStatistics</h3> <p>EMS Report for May: Responded to 382 Medical/Trauma calls Treated 47 motor vehicle accident patients Provided 8 medical coverages Administered 55 wellness/blood pressure checks Hosted 1 department tour Extended 1 department presentation</p> <p>911 Report Highlights: Received 1,617 total calls 331 EMS</p>	<p>323 Sheriff's Department 147 Laurinburg Police Department 52 Fire Department 366 hang-up calls 131 wrong numbers 48 open line calls 810 cellular calls</p> <p>Weather Observations (EMS Recordings) Temp (high) 92 on 5/12 Temp (low) 42 on 5/7 Wind (mph) 24 on 5/24 Rainfall (inches) 1 on 5/30</p> <p><i>Compiled by Tommy Hatcher</i></p>
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Animal Control Officer Larry Herrings holds a sign encouraging citizens to report vicious dogs. The signs will be located throughout the County, mostly along major highways.

Ordinance explained

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She added, "The ordinance is clearly written to ensure animals in our community are treated humanely. Dogs can only be chained, fastened or tied for one hour a day.

"It also requires registration for boarding kennels, pet shops, foster and rescue homes, dealers and breeders. The animal control officer would inspect these facilities annually," Murray explained.

A part of the Ordinance requires that dogs be maintained on the owner's property. Violation could result in a \$250 fine for a first offense and \$1,000 fine for a third offense.

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.