



SCOTLAND COUNTY MONTHLY

MAY 2003

A newsletter for Scotland County employees

Task Force receives \$250,000 PARTF grant

Approval of a \$250,000 grant from the Parks and Recreation Trust Fund (PARTF) has ensured a matching grant from the County Commissioners.

It also brings the Youth Center Task Force closer to initiating construction of Phase I of a comprehensive recreation center complex located near the juncture of West Boulevard and Turnpike Road.

The \$1.5 million required for Phase I would go toward construction of softball, baseball and soccer fields. Additional Phase I features, for a total \$3.3 million, would include outdoor lighting, a walking trail, playground, picnic areas, two entrances — one from Turnpike and the other from West Boulevard — and a 420-space parking lot.

Scotland County was one of 57 applicants statewide vying for a PARTF grant. The applications, ranked by a point system, placed Scotland County sixth.

PARTF then ensured that projects funded are well-represented geographically across the State, which put Scotland County in the number two spot.

"The County has never received a PARTF grant, and I'd like to think we did the application well," said Parks and Recreation Director Shannon Newton.

Newton, along with Youth Center Task Force Chair Becca Hughes and assistant Christin Westphal Keeney, researched and wrote the grant application.

The Youth Center Task Force already has received a \$315,000 Housing and Urban Development grant, thanks to the efforts and support of U.S. Rep Robin Hayes, and a \$100,000 grant from the Tourism Development Authority.

"The community is looking forward instead

see Grant, page 3

DSS renovates lobby, adds office space

With the redesign of its lobby, DSS gained needed office space and a more user-friendly waiting area for clients.

The \$10,500 used to fund the project has been in the DSS budget for two fiscal years. "We did hold off on spending the money, but space has become critical," explained DSS Director Jan Elliott.

DSS houses 92 full-time employees and four additional people from other agencies who provide support services for DSS clients.

"I have no clue how many offices DSS actually has, but I have a space where everyone can sit," said Elliott. "It's the privacy and storage issues that have become a problem."

The DSS receptionist area is now the lobby, which is located to the immediate left of the entrance. "Our customers said the lobby was not easy to locate when it was down the entrance hall to the left, nor was it user-friendly."

The new lobby now features a sitting area and resource room, where clients have access to computers and a printer while they wait. "The computers will allow clients to conduct a job search or find out more information about DSS services," said Elliott. "Clients also have more privacy from being overheard at the point of registration."

A Medicaid clerk, Medicaid case officer and ESC contract person are located in the new offices in what was once the waiting area.

"All DSS did was take the reception and waiting area space and flip it over," Elliott said.

She added that DSS has had to think creatively on how to handle space issues. "The net gain really is one more office, but it's one more office than we had and it brought about the best possible use for the space."



Before



After

Roll call in honor of names on the wall

With Memorial Day recently passed, the May 2003 issue of the *Scotland County Monthly* is providing the names of area men and women serving their country in the Middle East. There are now 59 names on the Wall of Honor located outside the Board of Elections Office. "I had no idea so many people in Scotland County had loved ones serving overseas," said Board of Elections Director Judy Riggins, who started the Wall of Honor. Names continue to be submitted as well as updates on those who have returned home. See **page 6** for complete list.

MANDATORY HEALTH INSURANCE MEETINGS

June 11, County Annex and June 12, Commissioners Chamber

Choice of Times: 9-10:30; 10:30-12; 1:30-3; 3-4:30

DSS clients access banking services through pilot project

by Jan Elliott, DSS Director

Scotland County families are the first in the State to benefit from a pilot project launched May 5 by Scotland County DSS, ConnectInc. and First Bank. Two individuals have signed up, and DSS anticipates many others will follow.

The pilot project provides access to banking services for former Work First participants who are still receiving follow-up services through ConnectInc./Work Central.

DSS has a contract with ConnectInc./Work Central to provide follow-up services focusing on job retention, crisis referrals, asset accumulation and education for former Work First recipients who have left the program due to employment.

These individuals are now working and making enough money to no longer qualify for a check from DSS. Most are still at or below poverty income levels, so access to banking services is difficult and costly.

Potential users of this service will be identified by ConnectInc./

Barbeque tradition continues with some down-home flavor

by Melissa C. Hopkins, Cooperative Extension

Extension and Community Association members prepare the annual barbeque lunch fundraiser.



The annual Extension and Community Association (ECA) barbeque once again attracted a large crowd to the County Annex to enjoy some down-home southern cooking.

With more than 20 club members serving, 380 plates of barbeque pork, cole slaw, baked beans, rolls, tea and desserts were enjoyed by hungry customers.

"There was a good atmosphere for those who ate here," said Juanita Bowen, liaison for the ECA. "We also had a lot of take-outs."

In fact, ECA members delivered 168 plates in addition to take-out plates served on the premises. "We were very pleased with the turnout," Bowen said.

That pleasure does not mean that the ECA members will just rest on their laurels. "We will look at some changes for next year," Bowen said. "We might add some items and choice to the menu."

Regardless of the menu decisions, Bowen is firm that the ECA barbecue will continue for years to come.

Proceeds from the event allow the organization to provide scholarships and programming opportunities throughout the year. "This is our event to raise money for our projects," Bowen said. "It will continue in some form as long as we can run it."



From the left, Jan Elliott, Beckie Kimbrell, Lillie Mae Purvis (participant), Heather Johnson, Dorothy Fields, Lisa Davis, James Austin celebrate the launch of the pilot project.

Work Central, and they will be contacted. Services such as a checking account with no monthly fees, electronic access for withdrawals and a Visa Check Card will be provided if they sign up. Counseling and training on use of the services are provided.

These individuals will now have a banking home where they can cash checks for free and they will no longer have to use payday loan services. They can begin to develop a banking relationship and all the services that brings.

Notes from the County Manager

Greetings. The City of Laurinburg will soon learn whether it has received the prestigious All-America City Award, an honor bestowed on just 30 communities nationwide each year.

The application committee invested a great deal of time and effort in getting us this far — in the finalist position — and the home stretch is in sight.

The committee focused on three great strengths in the community — Habitat for Humanity's Providence Place community of homes, Scotland Memorial Hospital's accessible health care option through its mobile unit SCOTTY and the efforts of the Youth Center Task Force, which paid off last week when it received a \$250,000 Parks and Recreation Trust Fund Grant earmarked toward the construction of a comprehensive recreation complex.

That should be a plus when our All-America City delegation makes its pitch to a panel of judges in Washington, D.C. It proves what Scotland County has known all along — great things happen when we work cooperatively toward a targeted goal.



Scott Sauer

Introductions & transitions

Welcome employees who joined County departments since March 16: **Karen "Dawn" McDonald**, Health; **Kevin Rader** and **Nancy McPeck**, Jail; **Reginald Drakeford** and **Ronald Stanley**, part-time in Transportation.

Mosquito control efforts can be economical

Teddy Locklear does the math, and the end result isn't pretty.

The County population — excluding Laurinburg, Wagram and Gibson — is 19,043.

Each resident would pay \$21.70 to cover the cost of spraying for mosquitoes twice a week over a 29-week period.

Ultimately, the spray program would treat only 10.7 percent of the County's 202,880 total acres.

Locklear, Environmental Health Director, admitted that mosquito control spray programs are most effective in residential communities — not rural counties.

"Figures indicate the chemical treats 363 acres and hour. With a 60 hour per week spray time to treat the County's 550 road miles, it is estimated that 21,780 acres would be treated, or 10.7 percent of the County's 202,880 acres." Breaking the formula down even more, Locklear said, "The cost per acre is \$0.32 and the cost per hour is \$88.98."

"Mist from a spraying only travels around 300 feet off the road depending on weather conditions," explained Locklear. "That means the mist will never reach swampy areas where mosquitoes breed."

An alternate and effective method used to combat the mosquito problem is through education, communication and enforcing the mosquito control ordinance, according to Locklear.



Teddy Locklear investigates an area with standing water in response to a citizen complaint.

Mosquito bite prevention tips

- » Wear long-sleeved shirts and pants
- » Avoid staying outdoors at dusk and dawn (when mosquitoes are most active)
- » Wear insect repellent that contains DEET (30% or less for adults, 10% or less for children) and avoid putting DEET on face and hands

"The local mosquito control ordinance allows us to investigate complaints and to talk to folks who may be risking their health and the health of others in the surrounding area," he said.

"Most people made aware of a situation will come into compliance," he said.

Another way to get a handle on mosquito control is through education and communication. The Health Department distributes brochures on new and emerging mosquito-borne illnesses like West Nile Virus.

Locklear provided tips on what homeowners can do to prevent their property from becoming a breeding area for mosquitoes.

"Survey your property for artificial containers that can hold standing water and get rid of the containers or turn them upside down."

"Water in bird baths should be changed weekly, and water in pet bowls should be changed daily," Locklear added. "Larvacide should be put in abandoned or out-of use swimming pools."

"Tires that are left open accumulate water and encourage breeding," Locklear said. "There is no charge for residents to dispose of them at the landfill or recycle centers."

Mosquito control can be handled effectively and economically. "If everyone complies with the rules, it does more for the public good and can be more cost effective than spraying," he said.

the Birthday list for June

- 1** Lisa Locklear (Health); **2** Linda Locklear (Tax) and Sara McCall (EMS); **3** Kathy Medlin (Public Works); **4** Sandra Pridgen (Health) and Travis Stone (Sheriff); **5** Dorothy Fields (DSS) and Barbara Mack and Stephanie McDonald (Health); **6** Leroy Davis (Public Buildings); **7** Bryant Higgins (Public Works); **10** Donald Wegner (Sheriff); **11** Larry Tunstall (EMS); **12** Sharon Davis (Transportation); **13** Ronnie Tunstall and Barry Roberts (EMS); **14** Eva Locklear (DSS) and Kevin Rader (Jail); **15** Vincent Price (EMS); **16** Annie Locklear (Health); **19** David L. Burns (Commissioner); **20** Martha Fulton (DSS); **21** Linda Holland (Health) and Tina Bormet (EMS); **23** Lucy Ellsion (Jail); **24** Pamela Reed (DSS) and Betty Meekins (EMS); **25** Annie Clark (Cooperative Extension); **27** Evangela McArthur (Health); **28** Sheryl Primus (DSS) and Glenn Tucker Meekins (EMS); **30** Rebecca Stricklen (Cooperative Extension).

\$250,000 grant awarded for recreation site

continued from page 1

of backward in that we are looking to improve the community even in tough economic times," Newton explained.

She said a proactive approach on the part of Scotland County has probably helped the community in its recent successes in securing grant money for the comprehensive recreation center.

The Youth Center Task Force is still awaiting word on a \$500,000 request to the Land and Water Conservation Fund (LWCF), a federal grant administered by the State.

The recreation complex in its entirety will carry an estimated \$10 million price tag. It will include a swimming pool, indoor athletic facility, expansion of Scotland Place and the construction of a civic center.

EMStatistics April

911 Report (some highlights are):

- Received 1,507 total calls
- 306 EMS
- 296 Sheriff's Department
- 111 Laurinburg Police Department
- 44 Fire Departments
- 324 hang-up calls
- 143 wrong numbers

119 open lines calls
693 Cellular calls

EMS Report:

- Responded to 365 Medical/Trauma calls
- Treated 66 motor vehicle accident patients
- Provided 5 stand-by medical coverages
- Provided 1 department presentation

Report compiled by Tommy Hatcher

Celebrating health inside and out



It was all about health at Scotland Place April 25 as employees inside the building were recognized for service and others outside took to the walking trails for fitness day.

Fitness Day Outside —

38 county employees braved the rain — described by one person as liquid sunshine — to walk around Scotland Place as part of Employee Wellness Fitness Day. Participants received prizes, bottled water and healthy snacks for their efforts.

Employee Wellness Activity Committee representative Barbara Mack, RN said fitness day was successful for a first-time try. “Plans for wellness activities will continue throughout the year and we will make fitness day an annual event,” she said.

Above, Health Educator Stephanie McDonald puts all the prizes available to participants on display.

Many Thank Yous Inside —

The Health Department treated its employees to a thank you lunch, an event doubly meaningful since it also celebrated 60 years of providing public health services to the community this month.

“Public health is more important than ever,” said Health Department Director Jane Murray. She said past public health worries like venereal disease have transitioned into new concerns — AIDS and HIV. And now, public health agencies are tackling additional threats in anthrax, SARS and ebola.

Board of Commissioners Chairmand David L. Burns shared words of appreciation. “You have had so much thrown at you in the past two years. Thank you for all that you do every day.”

Commissioner Betty Blue Gholston, who serves on the Board of Health, said, “With what is going on in our nation and in the world, I sleep better at night knowing you are here.” Board of Health member Rebecca Blue added, “Take pride in what you do and how you impact the community in a positive way.”

Below, Board of Health member Joe Wampler personally thanks employees for all they do.



Ricky Locklear, Animal Control Officer, completed the Chemical Immobilization and Euthanasia training. ☼ Congratulations to **Commissioner Betty Blue Gholston** on the February 9 birth of her third grandson, Jaden Blue Gholston; to first-time grandmother **Jane Callahan**, Register of Deeds, on the April 25 birth of grandson Brock Michael Callahan; and to **Anne Tindall**, Administration, on the March 31 birth of granddaughter Katherine Elizabeth Mordarski. ☼ **Pam Riemer**, Cooperative Extension; **Ida McGill**, DSS; and **Ann Kurtzman**, Administration; attended a BeActive NC Workshop May 2 in Raleigh. ☼ In Health Department news: Congratulations to **Stephanie McDonald** and **Tina Hunt** on their recent engagements. **Stephanie McDonald** received her Masters Degree in Public Health May 18 from UNC-Chapel Hill. **Annie Malloy** is planning a June 23 wedding for her son, Frederick, to Cytrina Leake. **Linda Holland** gained a son-in-law May 3 when daughter Tiffany married Ronnie Jones. **Peggy Robinson** is a new grandmother to Audrey Elizabeth Wright, born on May 9 to daughter Susan and son-in-law Dave. **Karen Altomare**, Nutrition Program Coordinator, was named March Employee of the Month and **Lynda McMillan**, Administrative Assistant, was named April Employee of the Month. Congratulations to both of you. Condolences to **Esther Taylor** on the death of her brother and to **Pearlene Leggett** on the death of her grandfather.

Post Scripts

Cooperative Extension Director **Cathy Graham** will conduct a training for all Health Department staff on June 6 entitled, *Transforming Lemons into Lemonade*, which deals with peer relationships and positive attributes. Bioterrorism Coordinator **Dawn McDonald**, who has assumed additional responsibilities as Public Health Preparedness, Response and Compliance Coordinator, is available to speak to community organizations on bioterrorism and Category A agents. A speedy recovery to **Cindy Gibson** and **Robin Quick**. Congratulations to Laquanda Temeca Leaven, daughter of **Frances Moody**, for her selection as an intern for the NASA SHARP 2003 intrenship program. Leaven was among the 150 out of more than 1,000 applicants who applied for this opportunity. ☼ Expanded Food and Nutrition Education Program Assistants **Hazel McPhatter** and **Faye Barton** attended the EFNEP State conference in Raleigh, May 13-15. McPhatter received the New Nutrition Program Assistant award. Several members of the Extension staff and their advisory council members attended the *Get Motivated* session in Greensboro May 13. Zig Ziglar and former New York Mayor Rudy Guilliani were among the featured speakers. ☼ Our sympathy to **Gail Wright**, Purchasing, on the death of her father. ☼ **Reminder:** The proposed budget for FY 2003-2004 will be presented June 2 at the regular meeting of the Board of Commissioners.



Sam Snowdon, Board of E and R Chairman, Scotland County Commissioner, architect:

This Board has been hard-working and faithful to the cause. The Board has been able to reach a consensus on everything quickly. The appeals process has been effective and helpful, and it will be a model for future efforts.



Sam Cribb, registered surveyor and contractor and land developer:

After 47 years here, I know about 90 percent of the land in Scotland County. I'm familiar with aerial photography. GIS has shown soils and layout in a different way, which is similar to aerial photography. I've also enjoyed meeting some interesting people.



Charles "Scooper" Jordan, Scotland County Commissioner, contractor:

I've met a lot of nice and interesting people, and I've learned a lot about Scotland County properties and land. I've learned many things I didn't know about before. I have more knowledge now, which will prove helpful with my responsibilities as a Commissioner.

Pat Dozier, farmer:

I enjoyed the people we dealt with. The GIS was interesting and informative, especially in the area of soils. I learned a lot about my own land through the GIS. I've enjoyed working with members of this Board, and I would like to commend Sam Snowdon for his effective leadership over these past weeks.



David Guy, retired manufacturing manager:

What I found impressive was the balance of the Board of E and R, which is made up of people representing a variety of backgrounds and expertise. I am impressed with the job the Board has done. I think the County is much better off as a result of its efforts.



Walter Rogers, certified real estate broker:

The Tax Department certainly has a challenge ahead of it. This Board has been able to help people who have had some real problems. I hope we've been able to make them feel better about the appeals process and understanding the tax rate and the tax base.



Pictured are the members of the Board of Equalization and Review. With the appeals process concluded, they share some thoughts.

Tax staff get taste of local lore from Board of E and R

Knowledge by the Board of Equalization and Review of Scotland County trends and history resulted in a learning experience for Tax Office staff.

As the Board heard more than 700 appeals, members frequently shared information about Scotland County property, when and how it changed hands, who last owned it and how its use might have changed over the years.

"We actually learned a lot about Scotland County history from the Board members," said Tax Administrator Kep Kepley. "The professional backgrounds of the Board members allowed them to witness trends through the years that really helped during the appeals process."

"We found a lot of errors and inconsistencies from the 1995 revaluation. The Board moved through the appeals fairly quickly," Kepley said, "The large acreage tracts took the most time because floodplain, soil type, shape and access all come into play."

The process went smoothly thanks to the technology employed by the Board of E and R, with assistance from the Tax Office staff. "We were able to pull up via computer the property record card and photo of the structure in question. Through GIS, we could see how the property was laid out in relation to other properties, soil type, floodplain, shape of the parcel and how it was zoned."

Appeals process gives everyone a chance to be heard

The four weeks from April 8 to May 8 were stressful.

But for Sam Snowdon, a Scotland County Commissioner who serves as Chairman of the first independent Board of Equalization and Review, the time was worth the effort.

"This is a fair process where the Board can equalize the values of property and real estate in Scotland County," he explained. "Whether people who appealed were satisfied or not, they did have the opportunity to be heard."

In all, the Board of Equalization and Review heard 719 appeals with a total assessment value of \$95,426,260. In a month's time, the Board adjusted \$11,893,780, or 12.4 percent of the total appealed value.

Snowdon praised his colleagues on the Board for their fairness, skill and familiarity with the County. "The Board represents such a knowledgeable cross section of citizens in the County."

He also praised the Tax Office staff and the tools made available to the Board via computer that allowed it to get the job done. One person was always on hand to do field work for clarifications. "He stayed busy the whole time," said Snowdon.

Snowdon said of his experience, "This, like the Board of Elections, which I served on, gave me another insight into how great this country really is. There's always an appeals process."

The following are the names on the Wall of Honor. Anyone may submit the name of a family member, friend or loved one serving in the Middle East to

Board of Elections Director Judy Riggins at the County Annex, 231 East Crony Street, or call 277-2595

Mikeal Martin, nephew of Julia Robinson
Corey Cooper, son of Debra and Luther Everette
Ryan Guinn, son of Norman and Doris Guinn
Joseph D. Dwyer, son of Patrice and Maureen Dwyer
Walter S. Graham, son of Ruthnia Graham
Jarrold Miller, son of Wilmenia and Albert Miller
William H. Small, Jr., husband of Tracy Small
Thomas Harrison Gentry III, son of Lorie Chavis Hillburn
Samuel F. Bethea, son of Annie V. Bethea
Adam Covington, son of Jackie and Pinky Covington
Tiffney McNair, daughter of Cathy and Tony McNair
Daisy Tyson Wilson, daughter of Margaret Covington
Scott Tyner, grandson of Blanch and Bill Tyner
Wayne K. Baxley, son of Delores and William Baxley **Home!**
Damion K. Campbell, son of Rosa Campbell and Luther Atkins
Jesse Burroughs, nephew of Janie Dickens
Cheryl Marcure Hyder, daughter of Joyce Marcure
Ben Cannon, future son-in-law of Fred Fox **Home!**
Michelle Johnson, daughter of Sally McRae Armstrong
Michael Robert Huffman, brother of Joe Huffman
Cecil T. Ikner, son of Gertrude Ikner
Andrew Grice, great-great nephew of Carrie Calloway
Joseph "Bo" Hornbuckle, son of Libby and Joe Hornbuckle **Home!**
Lisa Alford Dunn, daughter of Beatrice Roberts and John Alford, Jr.
Shawn Britt, son of Brenda and Morris Britt
Lind Sturkie, grandson of Rev. and Mrs. L. J. Young
Matthew Frease, son of Lynne and Michael Frease
Barry Franks, son-in-law of Darlene and Jerry Johnson
Marshall Moody, nephew of Jean Humble
Tiffany Smith, daughter of Cheryl Newton
Billy F. Thomas, son of Evelyn and Billy Thomas
Deon Easterling, son of Dorothy and Robert Easterling
Chris Snyder, son-in-law of Ray Oxendine

Travis I. Baucum, son of Rene and Henry Livingston
Douglas L. Caviness, son-in-law of Anne and Carl Tindall
Steven Madden, son of Annie Lorie and Linnie Madden
grandson of Betty and Harold Hackler
Ivory H. Smith III, son of Betty J. and Ivory H. Smith, Jr.
Brian Campbell, son of Betty and Bobby Campbell
Fonda J. Rollins, daughter of Lillie M. and Thomas T. Rollins
Darlene Brown, daughter of Lula Mae and the late Rush Brown
Alton S. Farr, son of Judy Farr
Robin McMillian, son of Barbara and Rev. Otis T. McMillian
Tyrone McMillian, son of Barbara and Rev. Otis T. McMillian
Jimmy Sanderson, friend of Ronette Chavis
James M. Robinson, son of Barbara J. Robinson
grandson of Louise Monroe
Anthony Good, husband of Donna Good
E. Jerome Pemberton, son of Johnnie Mae and Ernest Pemberton
Jeremy Pfistner, son-in-law of Phyllis and Stephen McMillan
James Steven Conklin, Jr., grandson of Shirley and James Conklin, son of James S. Conklin, Sr.
James E. Davis, son of Karen and Otis James
Michael E. Rogers, grandson of Bonnie Rogers
son of Mattie Rogers
Robert L. Rogers, grandson of Bonnie Rogers
son of Mattie Rogers
Franklin Monroe, son of Geraldine W. Monroe and the late Franklin (L.B.) Monroe
Edward Bears, son of Cora Bears
Keith R. Coggin, son of Louise A. Snead
Eric David, son of Barbara David
Franklin D. Troublefield, son of Sandra Deese and Frank Troublefield
Curtis D. Troublefield, son of Sandra Deese and Frank Troublefield
David Ingram, son of John Lewis Ingram



Scotland County's Senior Games attract sports, arts competitors

It looked like bowling with a croquet ball. The objective, though, was to miss the ping pong ball.

The game is bocce, and senior athletes demonstrated their skill and understanding of the sport, pictured left, while participating in that and their pick of some two dozen additional events during Scotland County's annual Senior Games.

Nearly 70 seniors locally were among 50,000 other older adults across the State who joined in competition during two weeks of Senior Games.

Other competitive programs included swimming, bowling, table tennis, billiards, cycling, shuffleboard, basketball shoot, horseshoes, bowling, track, croquet, spin casting, softball throw, 1500 meter walk and field events of discus, shot put and long jump.

Literary, performing and visual arts were part of the Silver Arts portion of Senior Games, which concluded with an awards ceremony.

Participants who place in their event will attend the State Finals in Raleigh in the fall.

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.