



SCOTLAND COUNTY MONTHLY

MAY 2005

A newsletter for Scotland County employees

Splash Pad opens

Scotland Accelerated Academy students were first through the gate when the Splash Pad, which neighbors Scotland Yard on Turnpike Road, opened for business May 26.

County and City employees and their families enjoyed a trial run of the Splash Pad the weekend before the opening. **More Splash Pad information is on pages 2 and 4.**



Schools reject funding deviation request

The Scotland County Board of Education unanimously rejected a request by the Board of Commissioners to reduce its local school operating budget by \$336,000 for the next fiscal year.

The Board of Education also rejected a followup request by the Commissioners to forgo the \$178,287 increase in local current expenditure.

The local school funding for fiscal year 2005-2006 is \$9,386,584, which is an increase of \$178,287 over school funding for fiscal year 2004-2005.

The Commissioners requested the funding deviations because a substantial number of local industries closed, relocated or filed bankruptcy, which resulted in significant loss of jobs and reduction of the ad valorem tax base.

The Commissioners also noted that one-third of the County's population qualifies for Medicaid, another funding mandate that increased \$700,000 for FY 2005-2006. The Commissioners trimmed the proposed FY 2005-2006 budget by more than \$1 million in an attempt to compensate for the mandated increases and hold the tax rate at \$1.10.

The school funding law, amended in 2002, funds local schools based on the percentage average increase of low wealth counties. The law allows for funding deviation in "extraordinary economic circumstances."

Both the Commissioners and the Board of Education must approve a funding deviation based on extraordinary economic circumstances if such a deviation were to become effective.

The Board of Education said in its reply resolution that the schools sustained budget cuts in excess of \$1.6 million in the past three years because of State cuts and the 2002 modified school funding law.

New health care provider approved

In a move that would save about \$168,000, the equivalent of one cent on the tax rate, the Board of Commissioners selected FirstCarolinaCare, Inc. (FCC) as the health care provider over current provider Blue Cross Blue Shield (BCBS). The change becomes effective July 1, 2005.

The FCC plan, according to Personnel Administrator Susan Butler, keeps the cost to the County almost flat and gives a little better coverage. BCBS, for instance, required a \$1000 deductible plus 20 percent. FCC requires \$500 per hospital admission plus a 20 percent coinsurance.

The deductible plus a 20 percent copay also applied to outpatient procedures and diagnostic testing under the BCBS plan. The FCC plan calls for a \$100 copay plus 20 percent for outpatient procedures, which include MRI, Cat Scans, PET Scans and Cath Labs.

Diagnostic testing and procedures, which include lab, x-ray, colonoscopy, ECG and sigmoidoscopy require a 20 percent coinsurance only. While FCC physician visit copays are \$25, compared to \$20 under BCBS, specialist visit copays are \$35 compared to \$40 under BCBS. Prescription costs remain the same at \$10, \$35 and \$50 for Tiers I, II and III, respectively.

With the FCC plan, however, there are regional limitations in the provider network compared to BCBS's extensive statewide provider directory.

Hospitals in the FCC network include Scotland Memorial, Moore Regional, First Health Richmond and the UNC hospital system.

Duke University Medical Center, Southeast Regional in Lumberton, Sandhills Medical Center in Hamlet and Cape Fear Valley Medical Center in Fayetteville are not in the FCC network.

In planning the FY 2005-2006 fiscal year the Commissioners have been looking for ways to make up for a \$498,000 revenue shortfall — the result of mandated funding increases for Medicaid and the local schools — in order to keep the tax rate at \$1.10.

Health Provider Enrollment Sessions

June 7, 1:30 p.m. and 3 p.m.,
Annex Conference Room

June 8, 9 a.m., 10:30 a.m., 1:30 p.m. and 3 p.m.,
Annex Conference Room

June 9, 9 a.m., 10:30 a.m., 1:30 p.m. and 3 p.m.,
Commissioners Chamber

Attendance is mandatory.

County Manager search resumes

The Board of Commissioners will interview four County Manager candidates June 7. The four candidates were selected from a field of 26 applicants.

Following the half-day of interviews, two or three candidates will be asked to return for a second interview. The Commissioners anticipate hiring a County Manager early in the new fiscal year.

Post Scripts



Officials cut ribbon

Board of Commissioners Vice Chair Betty Blue Gholston, left, and Laurinburg City Mayor Ann B. Slaughter praise the cooperative efforts that resulted in the Splash Pad.

Congratulations to **Bill McMillan**, Administration, and his wife Misty on the May 3 birth of daughter Morgan Elizabeth McMillan. ✿ **Roxanne Douglas**, who is completing her Cooperative Educational Work Experience at DSS, received an inductee award from Richmond Community College's Phi Theta Kappa Honor Society. Catisha Marie Freeman, daughter of **Jeannie Freeman**, DSS, also received an inductee award from the Phi Theta Kappa Honor Society. Catisha is enrolled in the Nursing Program at Richmond Community College. Both received the award for maintaining Grade Point Average of 3.5 or better. ✿ The June 27 (WLS)P Weight Loss Support Lunch and Learn will focus on **Dietary Guidelines**. Lunch and Learn is held 12:15 to 12:45 p.m. in the Health Department Education Conference Room. ✿ In Health Department news: Welcome back **Deloris McNeil**. A speedy recovery to **Lucy Walters, Violet Moore** and **Sylvia Hughes**. Congratulations to **Carlotta Rivers RN BSN** on successfully completing her Adult Health Physical Assessment Course. **Debbie Maske** and **Deborah**

Health staff treated to Hawaiian Luau



Health Department employees line up for a Hawaiian feast.

Health Department employees were treated to a little taste of Hawaii during a Luau luncheon hosted by the staff of the Senior Management Team.

Lynda McMillan, Jane Murray, Betty Smith, Cordella Walker, Peggy Robinson, Mike Norton and Tina Oxendine hosted the lunch-hour event as a reward for continued hard work and service to the community by agency staff.

The feast included ham, string beans, potato salad, pineapple and cheese casserole, rolls, fruit, brownies and chocolate chip cookies. The Education Room was adorned with palm trees, fish and sea shells. Employees decked out for

the occasion wearing grass skirts, hats and leis.

Winners in the Best Hawaiian Dressed contest were: Mary Armstrong, first place; Van McArthur, second place; and Donna Deese, third place. Cindy Gibson and Abby Massey tied as first place winners for the hula contest. Jane Murray and Cordella Walker entertained the staff with their rendition of the hula.

Board of Health members Dr. John Slaughter, Hattie McCallum RN and Commissioner Betty Blue Gholston attended as well as the agency Medical Director, Dr. David Williams.

The Senior Management Team is considering where to travel next year.

Rogers coordinated the March of Dimes fundraising efforts. More than \$2,800 was raised for March of Dimes. Condolences to **Sylvia Hughes**, in the death of her sister and to **Kathie Cox**, in the death of her father. Best wishes to **Kimberly Locklear** on her June 25 marriage to Donald McLamb. We wish her much happiness. ✿ Laurel Hill Elementary School student Royalonda M. Odom, daughter of **Sarah J. McQueen**, DSS, received an academic achievement award this year as did Wagram Primary student **Jazzmine Pratt**, daughter of Charleen Mouzon, DSS. Both students maintained an A-B average throughout the school year. ✿ With assistance from the **Veterans Service Office**, three Scotland High School students received VA scholarships. Recipients include Derrick Blue, Kelley Warren and Candace Manning. ✿ Our deepest sympathies are extended to **Kevin Patterson**, Administration, on the May 20 death of his stepmother Rita Quick Patterson, the daughter of former County Commissioner **D.B. Quick** and wife of former Sheriff's Deputy **Garland Patterson**. ✿ Registrations are still being accepted for Session Three of **Fun with Nutrition and Physical Activities** hosted by Cooperative Extension. The three-week program runs from July 11 to 29 from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. Call 277-2422 to register.

Seniors enjoy health event

Nutrition and food safety, what to know about prescription drugs and how to work-out with dyna-bands were subjects enjoyed by 65 seniors attending National Health and Fitness Day May 25. Exhibitors provided advice, health-related information and goody bags at the event sponsored by the Health Department and Parks and Recreation.



the Birthday list for June

1 Lisa Locklear (Health); **2** Linda Locklear (Tax); **3** Eulice Langford (DSS Board); **4** Travis Stone (Sheriff); **5** Dorothy Fields (DSS) and Barbara Mack and Vicki Thrower (Health); **6** Leroy Davis (Public Buildings); **7** Bryant Higgins (Public Works); **8** Peggy Taylor (DSS); **9** Grady Lowery (Jail); **10** Don Wegner (Sheriff); **11** Larry Tunstall (EMS); **12** Sharon Davis (Transportation); **13** Barry Roberts and Ronnie Tunstall (EMS); **14** Kevin Rader (Jail), Eva Locklear (DSS) and Reginald Franklin (EMS); **16** Annie Locklear (Health); **18** Daniel Kirkley (EMS); **20** Martha Fulton (DSS Board); **21** Linda Holland and San Juana Ruiz (Health); **23** Lucy Ellison (Jai); **24** Pamela Reed (DSS) and Betty Meekins (EMS); **25** Lilitha Graham (DSS) and Annie Freeman (Cooperative Extension); **26** Douglas Stack (Sheriff); **27** Evangela McArthur (Health); **28** Glenn Tucker (EMS) and Sheryl Primus (DSS).

re: you are this mnths prz wnnr

An estimated 2.5 billion spam emails are sent every 60 minutes. Spammers can survive with a response rate of 0.01 percent. In other words, enough people respond to spam to make it economically worthwhile.

Defined as “unsolicited commercial email usually sent in bulk,” spammers consider it a marketing tool while the recipients consider it spam. In fact, any email that is unwanted is considered spam.

Spam makes it difficult to run an email system. Unsolicited messages require additional system resources for processing and storage.

In November 2004 the volume of spam was 88 percent compared to 69 percent in October 2004, according to email security vendor Postini.

The Federal Trade Commission receives 88,000 spam complaints per day. AOL received 12.7 million complaints from subscribers during one week in February 2004.

Top products advertised through spam in 2004 fell in the following categories: drugs, computer software, mortgage/refinancing, pornography, organ enlargement, financial services, weight loss, dating, work from home, vehicle warranties, casinos, beauty and health, university degrees and debt solutions.

According to the Federal Trade Commission, about 70 percent of all spam is fraudulent.

Spam has transitioned into another arena of communications — spim, or spam sent through instant messenger. 1.2 billion spim messages were sent in 2004 compared to 500 million in 2003.

Spam cost U.S. companies nearly \$10 billion in 2003. An IT employee spends an average of 4.5 to 10 hours per week managing spam.

Spotting spam is fairly simple. The subject line is phony, a method spammers use to bypass security looking for specific headers. Misspelled words are common — “re:you are this mnths prz wnnr.”

Spammers use a numeric address to avoid blocking. In most instances any email message with a celebrity subject headers — JLo, Britney Spears — is spam.

With dictionary spam, a spammer will send messages to every address that might look like yours.

Avoid the following:

Never respond to spam email messages.

Never send your password, credit card number, or PIN in an email.

Never disclose your address to a site without first checking its privacy policy.

Uncheck checked boxes that grant a site or its partners permission to send anything nonessential.

Do not respond to an email directly. The link might show one address but send you to another address. If you wish to respond, type the web address directly into the address bar.

Forwarding chain letters, petitions or virus warnings is a method used by spammers to collect email addresses.

Do not click on an “unsubscribe” link. It notifies the spammer that you are there.

If your email has a preview page, disable it to prevent spam from reporting to its sender that you’ve received the email.

Source: Spams, Scams, Porn and Public Records: Challenges in Using the Internet, by Lee Mandell, Director of Information Technology and Research, North Carolina League of Municipalities.

You can help the FTC control unsolicited commercial email. Forward spam to uce@ftc.gov

Senior Games commence



Older citizens, State representatives and local officials gathered at Hammond Park to light the torch signifying the kickoff of the 2005 Scotland County Senior Games. WLNC’s Fred Fox served as the event’s emcee.

Guest speakers were, pictured above from the left, Representative Doug Yongue, Representative Garland Pierce, retired regional Aging Program Administrator Betty Rising and North Carolina Senior Games President Brad Allen.

Below, *Laurinburg Exchange* reporter Gilbert Abraham takes a photo of Gwyn Harris and Harry Armstrong as they carry the torch.

Winners at the local level are eligible to compete in the State Senior Games.



Background checks initiated

212 volunteer coaches and assistant coaches received ID badges this month as part of a criminal background check program developed by Parks and Recreation.

The program received support from the Parks and Recreation Advisory Board and was approved in February by the Board of Commissioners.

Parks and Recreation Athletic Director Al Blades said only those with the appropriate credentials will be permitted to coach a team. The program became effective this spring with the beginning of baseball season.

EMS Director Roylin Hammond provided identification badges while Blades conducted confidential background checks.

Blades said the the new program had no effect on the number of volunteers this year. In fact, he added, most coaches and assistant coaches supported the effort. “The majority felt this was needed,” he explained.

By initiating a criminal background check Parks and Recreation aligns itself with what its counterparts are doing across the State and the nation.

Appreciation for EMS services goes beyond one week a year

Although one week in May acknowledges EMS Appreciation Week, the entire month gave citizens countywide reason to appreciate the emergency services agency.

EMS Director Roylin Hammond said May was an exceptionally busy month so far this year.

In addition to running calls, at least eight ambulance standbys were scheduled in May beginning with a two-day standby commitment for a joint jump between the 82nd Airborne and German paratroopers at Laurinburg-Maxton Airport.

Scotch Fare and Laurel Fest, local festivals which occur every May, requested ambulance standbys.

EMS provided standbys for baccaulaureate and commencement at St. Andrews, the Habitat for Humanity Bike to Build fundraiser and commencement and the academic achievement awards events at Scotland High School.

Classes and workshops also kept EMS staff busy. They attended a two-day mandatory cardiac life support course as well as EMT classes for three days in Sampson County. Three EMS staff traveled to Durham to participate in two all-day training events for SMAT II.

Staff participated in continuing education with EMS Medical Director Dr. Doug Nederostek.

While EMS Appreciation Week was May 2 to 6, Hammond treated the staff to a single event — a May 26 appreciation lunch. “We didn’t have time to do anything big, but we wanted to do something for the staff,” he said.

EMStatistics

EMS Report for April:

Responded to 337 Medical/Trauma calls

Treated 45 motor vehicle accident patients

Provided 2 department tours

Provided 1 medical coverage

Administered 69 blood pressure checks

911 Report Highlights:

Received 1,524 total calls

291 EMS

283 Sheriff’s Department

128 Laurinburg Police Department

55 Fire Department

375 hang-up calls

115 wrong numbers

57 open line calls

799 cellular calls

Compiled by Tommy Hatcher

Weather Observations (EMS Recordings)

Temp (high) 87 on 4/19, 20, 22

Temp (low) 36 on 4/17

Wind (mph) 33 on 4/2

Rainfall (inches) .11 on 4/8

Tips for calling 911

1. Do NOT program 911 into your telephone.
2. You won’t forget the number, and programming the number invites accidental dialing of it.
3. Do not hang up if no one answers right away. If you do, call back and hold. Dispatchers are busy answering other calls.
5. If you hang up, your call will be delayed because you will be placed at the end of other callers.
6. Once you dial 911 you will stay connected until the dispatcher answers your call.

Fees, hours of operation set for Splash Pad

The Splash Pad is open Tuesdays through Sundays for three two-hour sessions each day — 1 to 3 p.m., 3 to 5 p.m. and 5 to 7 p.m.

Admission fee for Scotland County residents and County employees (with staff ID) is \$1 for ages 12 and under and \$2 for those 13 and older.

Admission for out of County visitors is \$2 for ages 12 and under and \$4 for those 13 and older. Admission covers one two-hour session.

The Splash Pad is available for private events Tuesday through Saturday before 1 p.m. The fee is \$50 per hour for 20 guests or less and \$2 per person above 20 people. The private event fee is \$100 per hour for out of County visitors and \$4 per person over 20 people.

Call Parks and Recreation at 910-277-2585 to book an event.

Woodmen donate flag



Finance Officer/Assistant County Manager Kevin Patterson, right, accepts the donation of the American flag from the local Woodmen of America. Woodmen Vice President Jerry Weinreis, left, and Trustee George Jones made the presentation. The flag replaces an older one at the Scotland County Annex.

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.

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.