

Scotland County Monthly



MAY 2007

A newsletter for Scotland County employees

Commissioners advocate for Medicaid relief at State level

Scotland County Commissioners and elected officials from counties across the State lobbied legislators for permanent Medicaid relief as part of County Assembly Day May 2.

Finding a permanent solution to the escalating cost of Medicaid has been the priority issue among counties for several years.

County Assembly Day is organized and hosted by the North Carolina Association of County Commissioners.

It gives county elected officials the opportunity to advocate as a group for Medicaid relief and other issues that directly affect their communities.

Commissioners John Alford, Leon Butler and Joyce McDow and Finance Officer/Assistant County Manager Kevin Patterson spent the day in Raleigh with Senator Bill Purcell and Representatives Doug Yongue and Garland Pierce.

Scotland County's legislators assured the Commissioners they support permanent Medicaid relief or at least another cap until a permanent solution could be attained.

Free Day postponed until FY 2007-2008

The Commissioners postponed free trash day until next fiscal year.

County Manager John Crumpton explained that the SolidWaste Fund currently has a deficit of about \$70,000 in operational expenditures.

Crumpton said about \$20,000 would have to be transferred from Fund Balance to the SolidWaste Fund to cover the expense of Free Day.

Crumpton said a number of people had called asking about whether there would be a Free Day.

County Engineer Jim Blackwell said the State changed the C&D rules January 1, 2007, which means some waste that used to be hauled to the County landfill can no longer be taken there.

Blackwell explained that the waste would have to go directly to the transfer station and continue on to Uhwarrie Landfill, which would cost an estimated \$20,000.

The Commissioners agreed that the continuation of Free Day was important because it helps improve the County's appearance.



Finance Officer/Assistant County Manager Kevin Patterson, Commissioners John Alford, Leon Butler and Joyce McDow meet with Representative Garland Pierce. Pictured right, Commissioner Joyce McDow with Senator Bill Purcell.



A permanent solution would mean finding another revenue stream to fund Medicaid that a majority of counties and legislators would support. The creation of an additional local option sales tax or a land transfer tax have been proposed.

A permanent legislative solution for Medicaid relief is not expected to occur in this year's legislative session.

There is strong indication the State Legislature will cap Medicaid again this year at FY 2005-2006 levels and provide additional targeted financial relief to the counties with a large Medicaid-eligible population, like that of Scotland County, with more than 25 percent.

Butterflies set free

Scotland County 4-H collaborated with Covington Street School to offer a Butterfly Project to 58 students. The 2nd grade classes of Sharyl Gross, Ellen Smith, Tricia Eury and Joseph Sorce participated in the project.

Students were provided larva and monitored their formation into a chrysalis. In addition, observation logs were kept by the students to date and draw changes.

"When Painted Lady butterflies began to emerge, I could hardly keep children in their seats," Smith explained. The students and Smith, pictured, released the butterflies in the butterfly garden at Covington Street School. They got an up-close look at the butterflies as they emerged from the net.

The program will be offered again in the upcoming school year. Contact Sharon English at 277-2422.

Crumpton takes Lee County job

John Crumpton will become the Lee County Manager, effective July 1. He served as Scotland County Manager since August 2005.

Several projects now in the works under his leadership include lights installation at the Rec Complex, replacement of the Courthouse roof, construction of an industrial shell building and the development of a multi-county wastewater treatment plant at West Point Stevens.

Crumpton's final message to County employees is on page 3.





Some 50 State and local officials attended the Service Delivery Forum May 11.

Forum addresses job issues

The role of State agencies and how they assist job seekers who are temporarily out of work was the topic of a Service Delivery Forum hosted by the Commerce Department's Emergency Response Team.

The State brought 27 representatives to the meeting to discuss methods to retrain the work force to prepare them for other jobs.

John Reese, Lumber River Workforce Development Board Services Coordinator, said, "It's not always a good time when we meet. It means a business or industry has closed."

Shortly after West Point Stevens closed its doors for good, local officials met with Department of Commerce representatives to request emergency assistance for those affected by the closure and industrial cutbacks.

The Forum helped initiate a process where local leaders will develop an economic plan and implement an action plan with assistance and direction from the Community Development section of the Department of Commerce.

the Birthday list for June

1 Lisa Locklear (Health); 2 Linda Locklear (Tax); 4 Travis Stone (Sheriff); 5 Dorothy Fields and Melinda McKoy (DSS) and Barbara Mack (Health); 6 Leroy Davis (Public Buildings); 7 Bryant Higgins (Public Works); 9 Grady Lowery (Jail); 11 Carolyn Allen (DSS) and Larry Tunstall (Sheriff); 12 Sharon Davis (Transportation); 13 Ronnie Tunstall (EMS); 14 Reginald Franklin (EMS), Kevin Rader (Sheriff) and Eva Locklear (DSS); 15 Vincent Price (EMS); 16 Annie Locklear (Health); 18 Daniel Kirkley (EMS); 21 Linda Holland (Administration) and Garrett Dial (EMS); 24 Pamela Reed (DSS); 25 Annie Freeman (Cooperative Extension); 26 Jeanette Jones (DSS); 27 Bessie Bell (DSS), Evangela McArthur (Health) and Jonathan Dunn (Jail); 28 Glenn Tucker (EMS) and Sheryl Primus (DSS).

EMStatistics

EMS Report for April:

Responded to 399 Medical/Trauma calls

Treated 81 motor vehicle accident patients

Administered 80 wellness/blood pressure checks

Sold 10 blue address signs

911 Report Highlights:

374 EMS

276 Sheriff's Department

269 Laurinburg Police Department

64 Fire Department

551 hang-up calls

88 wrong numbers

65 open line calls

1,215 cellular calls

1,934 total calls to 911

Top five complaints for EMS Response

66 sick person (specific diagnosis)

54 breathing problems

38 traffic accidents

33 chest pain

25 falls/back injuries (traumatic)

Weather Observations

(EMS Recordings)

Temp (high) 91 on 4/30

Temp (low) 25 on 4/8

Wind (mph) 39 on 4/15

Rainfall (inches) 1.36 on 4/15

Compiled by Tommy Hatcher

New vehicles added to Sheriff's patrol fleet



Chief Deputy Steve Smith, right, shows some of the features of the new Dodge Charger the Sheriff's Department will be using. Commissioner Guy McCook, left, and Commissioner Clarence McPhatter look over the interior of the vehicle. The Sheriff's Department got a go ahead from the Commissioners to purchase 10 new vehicles to rotate into its fleet. The vehicles will replace aging patrol cars that required more maintenance than was practical.

Health Tip

Carbohydrates have gotten a bad rap. Eat the right kind of carbs — the low-glycemic index (GI) kind — and you'll lose weight and lower both LDL and total cholesterol.

Eat the wrong kind, and your heart suffers the consequences.

GI index refers to how quickly starches break down and affect blood sugar. Opt for low-GI lentils, beans, bran cereal and high-fiber fruits and veggies to reach lighter, heart-healthier goals.

From www.RealAge.com

Budget talks underway

The Board of Commissioners intend to achieve three objectives in the next fiscal budget — reduce the tax rate, hold operating ex-

penditures steady and consider a cost of living increase for employees.

Finance Officer/Assistant County Manager Kevin Patterson explained, "The Commissioners' goal is to cut the tax rate by two cents to five cents and hold it for at least two years."

He added that a cost of living increase was "unofficially" supported by the Commissioners.

Patterson explained that in order for the governing board to meet the objectives, all departments must hold operating expenses where they are and even find ways to reduce them.

Introductions & transitions

Welcome to those individuals who joined Scotland County departments since March 16, 2007: **Brady Lawson**, part-time with EMS; **Edna Sherrer**, Health; and **Felisa McKeithan**, part-time with Transportation.

Message from the Manager



John A. Crumpton

By now most of you have heard that I have agreed to become the County Manager in Lee County effective July 1.

It was a difficult decision to make because of all the friends we made in Scotland County in such a short time.

It was also difficult to leave because of the relationships that I established with the Commissioners, department heads and employees.

In a very short time period much was accomplished in Scotland County. Lee County Commissioners were interested in recruiting me based on the accomplishments achieved here.

The economic development work the City, County and Chamber of Commerce have done is now being recognized in Raleigh and other parts of the State.

Other projects such as the completion of the Recreation Complex, the establishment of workplace safety programs, consolidation of the GIS with the City of Laurinburg and improving the County's financial condition all were accomplishments that impressed Lee County. None of them would have happened without support from many people, the Commissioners and County employees included.

I also must thank Laurinburg City Manager Craig Honeycutt for his support and for our great working relationship and even better friendship. The relationship was a benefit for both the City and the County. The next County Manager will have a great person to work with at the City.

The next County Manager also will find a great friend in Jim Frank Henderson at the Chamber of Commerce, who has been a pleasure to work with. This County is about to turn around economically. I hope Jim Frank gets the credit he deserves when it does.

The person who follows me will have County Commissioners who are willing to try different things to grow the County. The next manager will also have the support of a professional staff. The County's experienced department heads are willing do what ever it takes to get the job done.

The next manager will also have a strong financial position with which to work. Scotland County should be proud and should promote its assets in a positive way.

In closing, I want to thank everyone who I have worked with here in Scotland County. I wish everyone the best.



Scotland County Area Transit System (SCATS) extends its appreciation to **Sharon Davis** for eight years of service. Davis, SCATS senior driver, does a great job for the department. 🌀 Congratulations to **Jan-Marie Mathews**, DSS, on the May 19 marriage of her son, Joshua Purvis, to Annika Pfaender. 🌀 Kristi Alicia Johnson, daughter of **Kitty Johnson**, Health, will marry Brad Hutton Allen June 2. 🌀 Celebrating employment anniversaries at EMS are **Ronnie Lynne Tunstall**, 13 years; **Kevin Strickland**, 4 years; and **Bran-don Scott**, 1 year.

Girl Scout troop tours EMS

A local Girl Scout troop learned about ambulance operations from EMP-T Robert Sampson, standing left, and what to expect if they were to require emergency care.



EMD Tommy Hatcher, pictured right, instructed the scouts on the proper way to call 911 for help and how 911 Communications monitors all the other agencies in the County and monitors the weather. During their visit, the troop witnessed an actual emergency get processed.

EMS sells signs at Laurel Fest



James Rupard and son Will show the address sign they purchased.

Terri Tacquard and Tommy Hatcher, EMS, manned a booth at the annual Laurel Fest in Laurel Hill to sell 911 address signs.

The reflective address signs are available seven days a week at EMS at a cost of \$10 a sign.

The reflective blue signs help EMS locate a home quickly when an emergency has been reported.

SCOTLAND COUNTY PARKS & RECREATION

Parks and Recreation and the Scotland Youth Soccer Association in partnership with Challenger Sports will bring "British Soccer Camp" to Scotland County July 23 to 27.

Register online at www.challengersports.com 45 days before camp to receive a free British Soccer Jersey valued at \$30. Those who do not wish to register online may register for the camp at Parks and Recreation between June 4 and July 22. The British Soccer Camp will be held at Sycamore Lane Middle School.

A free, two-day Youth Football Camp will be held August 13 and 14, 6 p.m. to 8 p.m. at Legion Park, for ages 9 to 12. Registration is required. Daycares and other large groups will not be permitted.

Scots Cheer Camp will be sponsored by Parks and Recreation and held at the Laurel Hill Community Center June 18 to 22 from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. The camp is for children ages 7 to 12. There is a \$40 fee to register at Parks and Recreation, June 4 to 15.

For any questions or for more information on programs offered by Parks and Recreation, please call 277-2585.

The summer tennis schedule is listed below:

Skills and Drills, open to beginner level players and those who attended Tuesday/Thursday lessons this school year, Mondays, 6 p.m., \$5 per class beginning June 25.

Intermediate Drills, Tuesdays, Wednesdays and Thursdays, 9 a.m. to 10 a.m., \$15 weekly beginning June 12.

Advanced Drills, open only to college, high school or juniors who currently play in tournaments, Tuesdays, Wednesdays and Thursdays, 10 a.m. to 12 p.m., \$30 weekly beginning June 12.

Adult Round Robins, Mondays, 7 p.m., \$5 to play, beginning June 25.

Summer Tennis Camps, June 11 to 14, and August 13 to 16, 6 p.m. to 8 p.m., open to all players 4 and up, \$40.



County Government Week events reach out to community, employees

Scotland County Commissioners reached out to citizens of all ages last month in classrooms, meeting halls and on the walking tracks.

The outreach was part of County Government Week, April 23 to 28, a way for counties nationwide to focus on the challenging issues they face and the services they provide.

Scotland High School students welcomed Commissioners and staff to their classrooms for discussions on the tax rate, emergency services, economic development, industrial recruitment, recreation and solid waste issues.

Students met with Vice Chair Betty Blue Gholston, Commissioners John Alford and Guy McCook and County Manager John Crumpton, Finance Officer/Assistant County Manager Kevin Patterson, Tax Administrator Mary Helen Norton and EMS Director Roylin Hammond.

Wellness was promoted one afternoon at the new Recreation Complex where County employees walked the track, played frisbee golf and were treated to healthy snacks.

First CarolinaCare and EAP representatives distributed literature and conducted blood pressure checks and body fat readings.

At Scotland Place, Vice Chair Gholston and Commissioners John Alford, Leon Butler and Guy McCook joined the Aging Advisory Council for its quarterly business meeting. Later that same day, older adults attended a question and answer session with Chairman J.D. Willis, Vice Chair Gholston and Commissioner Butler.

Step into Spring concluded its four-week walking program the final day of County Government Week with a community walk at Hammond Park.

County Government Week organizers were County Manager Crumpton, Personnel Administrator Susan Butler, Health Educator Kathie Cox, Parks and Recreation Director Shannon Newton and Clerk to the Board Ann Kurtzman.



1. Chairman J.D. Willis answers questions from senior citizens. **2.** Commissioner Alford speaks with high school students. **3.** Citizens Step into Spring at Hammond Park. **4.** Employees warm up at the new Recreation Complex. **5.** Commissioner McCook meets with the Aging Advisory Council. **6.** Goody bags and information are distributed to employees at the Recreation Complex.