

Scotland County Monthly



NOVEMBER 2005

A newsletter for Scotland County employees

Regional landfill information shared with senior citizens

About 50 senior citizens had opportunity to learn more about the operation of a regional landfill during a question and answer session with Waste Management Project Consultant Greg Peverall.

"I would like to dispel the image of dumps and how old landfills used to be operated," Peverall said. "Modern, lined landfill facilities do protect the environment and are an important part of a community's infrastructure and development."

A Scotland County regional landfill proposed by Waste Management would accept 5,000 tons of municipal solid waste a day from the I-95 corridor at a yet-to-be determined site. Municipal solid waste is mostly organic material generated by homes and businesses.

"Hazardous, nuclear or medical waste material would not be accepted," assured Peverall.

Although siting a regional landfill would take five years minimum, ample time exists to gauge local support for the project through information sessions hosted by Waste Management along with public comment before the Board of Commissioners.

Peverall said the plusses to siting a regional landfill locally include better control of waste management systems, long-term disposal solutions, free disposal, added revenues, job creation and an asset to economic development.

He explained that the free disposal and host revenue alone could generate about \$3 million a year.

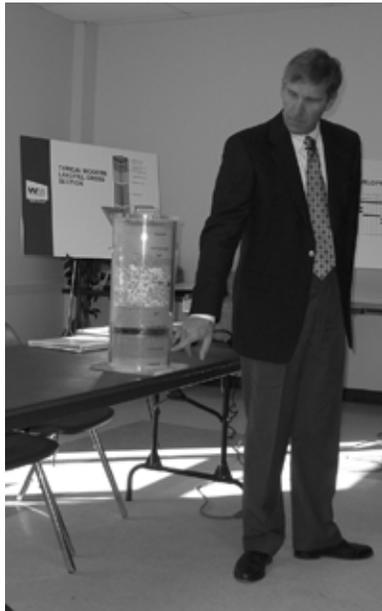
Peverall estimated that 250 trucks a day would transport the 5,000 tons of solid waste to the regional landfill. He said increased traffic would be a downside to locating a regional landfill, although transporting solid waste by rail might be an alternative.

Waste Management proposes to develop a 400-acre landfill with a 20-year life expectancy on a 2,000-acre tract of land, which would act as a buffer. The company conducts long-term monitoring of a regional landfill for 30 years after closure.

Peverall said there would be a lot of public dialogue before a conceptual design is presented to the Commissioners some time in 2007.

County Manager John Crumpton agreed. The entire process will be "as transparent as plexiglass" as Waste Management works with the Commissioners, community and media.

Crumpton added, "A regional landfill would bring a significant savings to all municipalities, not just the County."



Greg Peverall discusses what makes up a typical cross section of a modern regional landfill.

Grant deadline extended

The State agreed to extend the deadline for the Sports Complex grant from June 30, 2006 to December 31, 2006.

County Manager John Crumpton praised Senator Bill Purcell and Representatives Doug Yongue and Garland Pierce, whose efforts helped in the County's bid for a grant extension.

The County and City of Laurinburg are now discussing plans to join forces in the rough grading and the extension of water and sewer to the site pending approval by the respective governing bodies.

The County's Public Works Department would conduct the rough grading on the site intended for three softball fields and a multipurpose field. The City would provide water, sewer and storm drainage. County Engineer Jim Blackwell would act as Project Supervisor.

Crumpton said that once the fields are completed in September, the County would solicit bids for planting grass, fence installation, a frisbee golf course, playground area and parking lot.

The County solicited bids for the project in November and received one submission, which was higher than the \$800,000 budgeted.

Separately, bids were submitted for the construction of a concession stand, which also were over budget. Crumpton plans to discuss concession building options with the low bidder in the hopes of bringing it within budget.

Campaign results posted

The statewide 4-H Helpful Hands, Healing Hearts Campaign gathered 6,888 kits valued at \$137,760 and attracted the support of a former President.

Former President Bill Clinton was on hand to accept supplies from trucks destined for Starkville, Hattiesburg and Kiln, Mississippi and Baton Rouge, Louisiana.

The trucks — seven in all — crossed North Carolina stopping at 20 locations to collect items for victims of Hurricane Katrina. Donations from the local 4-H and County employees were collected from a Cumberland County site.

The local Campaign contributed 229 kits to the statewide effort.



Former President Bill Clinton meets with 4-H's at a collection site in Greensboro.

Message from the Manager

When I accepted the position of County Manager, the Commissioners gave me several goals to achieve.

None is bigger than keeping the tax rate down.

Given the mandated increases each year, keeping the tax rate down is a difficult task.

However, from what I have seen so far, we have a team of employees who are capable of achieving this goal.

Getting our teammates involved in the finances of the County will be one way to meet the goal.

I firmly believe that in order to keep the tax rate from increasing, all employees must be involved in the budget process and the day to day operations of financial management.

Each department should keep employees updated and aware of where the County stands year to date in the current year budget.

When I worked in the private sector, everyone was involved in some way in the finances of the organization. Most employees are given parts of the budget to manage or are given an individual budget to manage.

Keeping all employees involved and responsible will lead to greater knowledge and keep expenses down.

New ideas are generated that help us find new revenue and eliminate expenses.

Financial results within departments should be shared with employees at their department meetings. Let's get everyone involved so they will understand how they can impact the finances of the County in a positive way.

In the public sector there is a belief that each department has to spend their entire budget so they can get the same amount or more in next year's budget. This will not be the case in Scotland County going forward.

I will prepare and present a budget to the Commissioners that is based on need, not on what a department spent in last year's budget.

I believe in "zero-based budgeting," which means everyone starts at zero when the budget for next year is considered.

Extra consideration will be given to those departments that are innovative and are seeking ways to improve their financial performance and operational productivity.

As we head towards the end of the calendar year, each department must begin thinking about the FY2006-2007 budget. The FY2006-2007 budget process will begin in January, immediately after the holidays.

All employees are encouraged to become actively involved in the finances of the County by getting more involved in their department budgets and taking part in the budget process.

By the time you read this November newsletter message everyone will have already celebrated Thanksgiving. I hope everyone enjoyed the time off for the holiday.

In December, employees will enjoy a week off for the Christmas/New Year holiday. I hope everyone has a safe and enjoyable time away from work.

Happy Holidays to you and your family!



John A. Crumpton

the Birthday list for December

2 Peggy Robinson (Health) and Kimberly Cheek (DSS); 4 Lloyd Goins (Jail); 5 David Newton (Sheriff) and Wendy Stanton and Nyree Charette (DSS); 6 Amy Ratley and Tracie Patterson (EMS); 9 Tabatha Godwin (EMS); 10 James Brown (Public Works); 14 Patricia Wells (DSS); 15 Sue McRae (Board of Elections) and Morrison Locky (EMS); 17 Kathie Cox (Health); 18 Nicki Peek (Health); 20 Dr. William Stroud (Health Board) and Gail Wright (Administration); 21 Teresa Gorden (DSS); 23 Barbara Britt (Jail) and Barbara Ledbetter (DSS); 24 Sandra Leonard (DSS), Charles "Scooter" Jordan (Commissioner), Anne Tindall (Administration) and Esther Taylor (Health); 26 John Alford (Sheriff/Commissioner); 27 Martin Davis, Jr. (Public Buildings) and Elfreda Locklear (DSS); 29 Cynthia Gibson (Health); 30 Bunny Anderson (Soil and Water); 31 Mary Armstrong (Health), Mary Freeman (Tax), Marcia Coble and Angela Lassiter (DSS) and Debbie McRae (Transportation).

EM Statistics

EMS Report for October:

Responded to 395

Medical/Trauma calls

Treated 53 motor vehicle accident patients

Provided 9 medical coverages

Administered 70 wellness/blood pressure checks

Sold 42 blue address signs

911 Report Highlights:

372 EMS

272 Sheriff's Department

128 Laurinburg Police Department

31 Fire Department

346 hang-up calls

85 wrong numbers

51 open line calls

818 cellular calls

Weather Observations

(EMS Recordings)

Temp (high) 87 on 10/19,20

Temp (low) 34 on 10/2,30

Wind (mph) 20 on 10/25

Rainfall (inches) 1.86 on 10/6

Compiled by Tommy Hatcher

News of Note

Baby Think It Over offered

Full-time coordinator Atondra Ellis and part-time staff person Johnnie Mae Morrison will administer the Baby Think It Over Program (BTIO) for the FY 2005-2006 academic year. BTIO is an abstinence program focused on preventing teenage pregnancy. The Cooperative Extension is collaborating with the Scotland County Schools and Healthy Start Corps at UNC-Pembroke to offer the program. The schools provided a full-time coordinator, travel and supplies. A 30-hour-per-week staff person was provided by UNC-Pembroke, while Cooperative Extension provided office space, supervision and training.

Willis joins Southeast Commission Board

Lt. Governor Beverly Perdue appointed Chairman J.D. Willis to the North Carolina Southeast Commission Board, which focuses on economic development. Southeast Commission Board Chairman Jane W. Smith praised Willis for what he will bring to the group. "J.D. will add a unique and valuable perspective to our board with his experience as a top decision-maker in both government and business," Smith said. "We look forward to tapping his many years of leadership in Scotland County, his management career in the pharmaceutical industry and his knowledge of community, civic and educational programs."

Laurinburg native discusses survival, loss and life after Katrina

The day Camryn Ellis turned 6 it was gorgeous. That was August 27. “The day was absolutely incredible. We didn’t know Katrina was coming our way,” said Camryn’s mother, Atondra Williams Ellis.

Just 36 hours later, Atondra, Camryn, her father Herbert, brother Bradlee, sister Kaylan and dog Pebbles were in Laurinburg for an evacuation period they expected to last several days.

They weren’t prepared for what happened next.

“We got to Laurinburg about 11:30 Sunday night,” Atondra said. “The storm hit New Orleans Monday morning. It wasn’t so bad at first. There was a lot of wind, a lot of rain. We couldn’t get through to my mother-in-law. We couldn’t get through to anyone. Then the levees broke Tuesday.”

Camryn’s birthday was the last time the Ellis family saw Herbert’s mother, his mother’s sister and her husband, Uncle Joe. Herbert’s brother is still unaccounted for, but the family remains hopeful that he was evacuated and located somewhere else.

Atondra said her brother-in-law would not necessarily know where they are or how to reach them.

Despite efforts to convince them to evacuate Herbert’s family refused. Atondra explained, “Their attitude was, ‘We’ve ridden out every other storm, we’ll ride this out, too.’ They just refused to leave. They thought we were going and coming back anyway. This time it just didn’t work out that way. They never did leave, and they did drown in the storm.”

On August 27, Atondra heard on the news that Hurricane Katrina was headed toward the Florida panhandle. Early Sunday morning, everything had changed.

“We could handle a tropical storm one or two or a low three, but if it got worse, we were going to leave,” Atondra explained.

Early Sunday morning the Ellis family discovered Katrina had been elevated to a category four.

“We got everybody up. We really just grabbed what we were wearing — t-shirts, flip-flops and shorts — and left at 4:30 in the morning,” Atondra said. “It took us four hours to go 17 miles traveling west on the interstate.”

When the Ellises realized some of the routes they would normally take to evacuate to San Antonio were blocked, Atondra said they decided instead to go to Laurinburg where she grew up and where her family still lives. “We turned around and went east coming into North Carolina instead of Texas.”

In the days that followed, as they watched the series of events unfold as a result of Katrina and the breaking of the levees, Atondra said, “We looked down at what we were wearing. We had made a huge miscalculation because we didn’t bring anything with us other than the kids, the dog and a change of clothes. All we knew was what we saw on television with everybody else.”

The Ellises eventually learned the fate of Herbert’s family when people they knew were permitted back into New Orleans as part of the rescue and recovery effort.



When Kaylan asked if we would ever see them (family) again, I said, “We’ll see them again. I can’t tell you exactly when, I can’t give you a date, but we will.”
— Atondra Ellis

Atondra said, “A hospital friend of mine was able to get back there once the water had receded. She was going back to see what was there so she could relay that to me. She understood the markings on the houses. That’s when we had more information that they (Herbert’s family) hadn’t made it.”

Atondra and Herbert were finally permitted to return early in October so Herbert could provide a DNA sample so positive identity would be established.

“It was worse than what we saw on television,” Atondra recalled. “It was so desolate. The tops of trees were gone. No birds were singing. There were no squirrels — nothing. There was no sound. Everything was gray. There was no green. The grass was brown. Eighty percent of the city was underwater.”

Atondra and Herbert went to the home to see what was left.

“With them (Herbert’s family), they had had water up to the roof.”

She said large, heavy appliances and furnishings, usually difficult to move, had been tossed around the house by the force of the water. What was in the front of the house was in the back, and items in the back of the house were in the front.

Atondra said one of the first things she did was look in a cabinet drawer by the kitchen door. She knew Uncle Joe did certain things before leaving the house. He always slipped his wallet in his back pocket whenever he went out.

The wallet was there. “I knew then they didn’t make it,” said Atondra.

The Ellises now plan to extend their stay in Laurinburg and are making the transition to a rental home. Atondra, who worked in marketing with a New Orleans hospital, is now the Baby Think It Over Coordinator. Herbert, who worked for a paper company, is now employed with Rockwell.

Bradlee, a Scotland High School freshman, is on the football team. Kaylan and Camryn attend Washington Park Primary School.

“Local help has been incredible from churches, Habitat and the Red Cross. All have provided tremendous support,” Atondra said.

Considering her family’s ordeal and what they lost, Atondra said, “It would be wonderful to make huge amounts of money and be able to do anything you wanted whenever you wanted and be part of the in-crowd. I already knew they were not the most important things.”

“Family is the most important thing and making the most of all the time you do have. It has nothing to do with money, nothing to do with material things because you can lose those in the blink of an eye.”

“The wisdom pieces that you got (from family), you can’t buy those. Those are the things we’ll miss. Those are the things we value more now, not the house, not the things in the house.”

Atondra added, “When folks say, ‘Did you lose anything?’ It’s like, ‘Yeah, we lost it all, meaning family.’”

SCATS personnel took a CPR and First Aid training course November 19 conducted by **Robert Sampson**, a Paramedic Shift Supervisor. ☘ Transportation staff **Gracie Rettig** and **Wanda Britt** and EMS Director **Roylin Hammond** attended the Fall North Carolina Public Transportation Conference in Charlotte November 16 to 18. ☘ EMS wishes **Mike Edge**, SCEMS Training Officer, a speedy recovery. Mike had a knee replacement in late October and is making a strong recovery. ☘ **Roylin Hammond** attended an NENA and APCO meeting November 18 regarding an OnSTAR workshop related to 911 centers and the OnSTAR system found in General Motors cars. The meeting was held at the Charlotte 311 call center. ☘ Congratulations to **Dontae' Roland**, EMS October Employee of the Month, sponsored by Mac Tucker. ☘ In Health Department news: Welcome back to **Betty Smith**. Best wishes to **Michael Norton**, Environmental Health Supervisor, who will be leaving the agency December 16. Congratulations to **Barbara Mack** on the upcoming marriage December 31 of her daughter, Becky, to Duke Brantley in Columbia, South Carolina, and to **Winnie Robinson** on the upcoming marriage December 17 of her daughter, Chloe, to Jason Cook at Caledonia United Methodist Church. Speedy recovery to **Donna Deese**.

Condolences to **Larry Herring** on the death of his mother and to **Angela Moore** on the death of her uncle.

Fall meeting hosted by local district

by **Terry Gainey, Soil and Water Conservation District**

Scotland Soil and Water Conservation District hosted the Area VII fall meeting for the North Carolina Association of Soil and Water Conservation Districts. The meetings focus on training for district supervisors and staff.

Area VII consists of Bladen, Columbus, Cumberland, Hoke, Harnett, Richmond, Robeson, Sampson and Scotland counties.

Kevin Patterson, Finance Officer/ Assistant County Manager, welcomed the guests.

NCASWCD, Soil and Water Conservation Commission, NCDENR-Division of Soil and Water, NC Foundation for Soil and Water Conservation, NC District Employees Association and Department of Agriculture program updates were discussed.

Guest speaker Woody Thurman, owner of Twin Lakes Kennel in Laurel Hill, entertained guests and provided practical advice on training puppies.

Bunny Anderson, Scotland SWCD, received recognition for 10 years of service to the district.

The Area VII Award for Outstanding Accomplishments in District Programs was awarded to Scotland SWCD, which also received the award in 2004.



DSS staff who dressed for Halloween include standing, from the left, Marcia Coble, Karen Chavis, James McQueen, Freda Locklear, Raymond Esteves, Wendy Stanton and Lori Cole. Kneeling, from the left, are Carolyn Isbell and Beverly Wranosky.



Kevin Patterson welcomes attendees.

Two-second driving distance rule challenged

In Smith System's 50 years of teaching safe driving to more than 100,000 fleet drivers, the most common poor driving habit the company sees is inadequate following distance. Its studies show most motorists maintain between one and two seconds behind the vehicle in front of them.

Here are the most common reasons drivers attribute for this distance plus some thoughts to consider:

"I was taught the two second following distance when I first learned to drive. It's more than enough."

Consider this: This following distance has been abandoned by most state DMVs and the DOT. The two-second recommendation was derived from testing the stopping distance and reaction time of drivers under ideal road, vehicle and driver conditions and was a minimum.

These ideal conditions rarely exist. Even more crucial is the formula never considered how this limited following distance restricted our freedom to survey the complete traffic picture.

With two seconds or less, drivers can ill afford to take their eyes off the vehicle directly in front to identify risks further ahead, to the sides or behind. The resulting limited information often leads to late, hasty reactions which exposes drivers to unnecessary risks, creates a rough transport experience for any passengers and causes greater wear and tear on the vehicle.

"If I carry a larger following distance, other drivers will constantly cut in and force me to drop back. This will happen again and again, and soon I'll be behind schedule."

Consider this: A very common perception is that maintaining more than one to two seconds will invite more drivers to cut in and thus cause us to be constantly dropping back in traffic. The roots of this concern are more emotional than logical.

The truth is that when this happens, someone else usually is leaving our lane farther up ahead. It all balances out. The net difference rarely has any impact on our schedule.

Smith System recommends at least four seconds. When the vehicle in front passes a fixed object such as a telephone pole or an overpass, count one thousand one, one thousand two... Get at least the count of one thousand four before passing that same fixed point.

This distance should be increased in poor road or weather conditions or when driving heavier equipment.

It is instinctive for most drivers to actively fill space, not create it. Try our four second rule. You'll be amazed by the increased visibility and greatly reduced risk achieved for you and your passengers.

Source: Safety article from Smith System