

# Scotland County Monthly

NOVEMBER 2007



A newsletter for Scotland County employees

## Recreation Complex a bicycle route destination

The Recreation Complex may become the gateway to bicycle tourism in the future.

Parks and Recreation staff and a committee of knowledgeable cyclists will develop routes on existing roads for the Bicycle Map Project.

The routes will connect the municipalities via roads currently good for bicycling and will provide connections to major points of interest, such as parks, recreation areas, and historic sites as well as existing area cycling routes.

"All routes will begin and end at the Recreation Complex," said Parks and Recreation Director Shannon Newton said.

Once bicycle routes are established and forwarded to the State DOT, Scotland would be the 16th County to have a bicycle map published. The map is intended to detail cyclist-oriented information and enhance local bicycle transportation.

Production of the map, which costs between \$35,000 and \$40,000, would be entirely funded by the DOT as part of its Transportation Improvement Program (TIP). It will take between 12 and 18 months to complete the project.

Newton said, "The routes use existing paved roads in the County. A cartographer and graphic artists will produce the map at no cost to the County."

She added, "The DOT will put up signs for the bicycle routes and will be responsible for route maintenance."

## Public Buildings develops work order plan

Public Buildings is centralizing its requests for maintenance and facility service through a work order system. The plan takes effect immediately.

Whether it's painting an office, moving furniture or setting up for an event, all Public Buildings requests must now be sent via email to Mike McGirt at [mmcgirt@scotlandcounty.org](mailto:mmcgirt@scotlandcounty.org).

Public Buildings Supervisor Hyder Massey said the system will allow Public Buildings to better record the work being done and eliminate redundancy in the requests being made.

Send the email to McGirt at least four hours before the requested service is needed and include an explanation of job and the date service is required.

Massey said that in the case of an emergency, he or Mike McGirt should be called directly.

Department Heads should designate one or two people in their areas to make email requests from staff. For vehicle maintenance, call Larry Locklear at 277-2593 in advance and inform him of the service requested if known.



Photo courtesy of NCDOT Division of Bicycle and Pedestrian Transportation

## Spread joy through Foster Cheer

The Christmas tree at Subs-n-Cream on South Main Street is unlike any other Christmas tree.

Each of its 80 gingerbread cutout decorations represents a child who will be in foster care over the holidays.

For those children, Christmas is vastly different. They won't be spending the holidays with family and loved ones.

The Child Protective Services Unit at DSS is asking the community to think of these children as they go shopping for holiday gifts.

The 80 children range in age from three months to 17-years-old. There currently are 31 girls and 49 boys in custody.

That's 10 more children enrolled in foster care than in 2006.

Although there is some County funding to provide for the children in care, DSS still must look to outside sources for help.

Any person or organization can sponsor a foster child or children and provide for their Christmas.

One way to sponsor a child is to stop by Subs-n-Cream and select an ornament that represents a foster child. A sign up sheet is next to the tree for anyone who wishes to sponsor a child.

The gingerbread ornament has the name and age of the child on one side and the child's holiday wish list on the other side.

"When sponsoring a child a person can buy what is on the child's wish list such as clothing and anything age appropriate," said April Snead of Child

Protective Services.

"The older children usually like clothes, music CDs, electronics and gift cards."

Snead added, "Anyone can give a check in lieu of gifts."

The agency uses what funding it has available to purchase gifts for children who are not sponsored.

Another way to sponsor a child is to contact Snead or Wendy Stanton at 277-2525. All gifts must be delivered to DSS by December 17 in time for distribution.



Wendy Stanton, left, and Jennifer Goff, DSS, decorate a Christmas tree with gingerbread cutouts. Each represent a foster child and his/her holiday wish list.



## Committee formed to ensure complete Census count



**US Census Bureau representative Laura McClettie discusses the benefits of a complete count.**

### Employees reminded of scholarship

The first endowment for the Cynthia Gibson Memorial Nursing Scholarship was awarded in November. Gibson, a nurse with the Health Department, passed away in September 2006. In order to keep the scholarship up and going for future recipients, employees are asked to remember Gibson by making a donation to the scholarship fund. Gifts are tax deductible, and checks can be made payable to the Cynthia Gibson Memorial Scholarship and mailed to Richmond Community College Foundations Inc., PO Box 1189 Hamlet, NC 28345.

### Phlebotomy students gain valuable assistance

Health Department laboratory staff Erica Hall, Evangela McArthur and Judy McMillan helped 12 phlebotomy students gain experience in a clinical setting, one of three clinics in Scotland and Robeson counties designed to assist students in meeting their requirements. Each student must complete at least 60 clinical hours, 100 successful blood draws and 25 finger sticks. The students are from Richmond Community College and Sandhills Community College and have completed their classroom studies. After completing their clinical requirements, each student will take a NC State Phlebotomy exam, earning a certificate, which prepares them for employment at a hospital, clinic or doctor's office. Students trained at the Health Department receive quality one-on-one training. The preceptorship also helps the agency's staff improve and maintain their own knowledge and skill that enhance what they do in the laboratory.

### Mandatory training planned

The Reasonable Suspicion Drug and Alcohol Testing Training for supervisors and Department Heads will be held December 4. This training is mandatory for all supervisors. Two sessions are scheduled for 9:30 a.m. and 11 a.m. in the Commissioners Chamber. Since this is also the regular date for the Department Head meeting, the training will be the subject of the 11 a.m. meeting. A make-up session will be 9 a.m. Thursday, December 13, in the Health Education Room.

### Petty Leave use dates changed

The Petty Leave that the employees received January 1, 2007, must be used by December 15, 2007. Thereafter Petty Leave will run from December 16 to December 15. For example, 2008 Petty Leave can be taken starting December 16, 2007 but must be used by December 15, 2008. The change in Petty Leave to run concurrent with the pay period will resolve a variety of problems that occurred with the HTE financial software.

### **Below is a list of reasons why an accurate census is important to a community:**

- ➔ *Attracting new businesses to state and local areas*
- ➔ *Planning for the location of health services*
- ➔ *Development of rural areas*
- ➔ *Delivering goods and services to local markets*
- ➔ *Medical research*
- ➔ *Reapportioning seats in House of Representatives*
- ➔ *Drawing school district boundaries*
- ➔ *Planning budgets for government at all levels*
- ➔ *Planning health and educational services for people with disabilities*
- ➔ *Determining areas eligible for housing assistance and rehabilitation loans*

A complete Census count is critical to a community. For instance, the Census count determines the distribution of more than \$200 billion to communities in federal and state funds and forecasts future housing needs for all segments of the population.

In preparation for the 2010 Census, Scotland County will get the opportunity to test how the Census will work as a participant in the 2008 Dress Rehearsal.

About two dozen community volunteers will serve on a Complete Count Committee and will be responsible for getting the word out to all citizens the importance of filling out the Census questionnaire when it arrives in the mail in March.

The Committee is divided into subcommittees in government, education, faith-based, media, community-based and business in order to extend its reach and spread word of the Census to all areas of the County.

US Census Bureau representative Laura McClettie said all information the Census receives on the questionnaires is strictly confidential. Sharing Census information with outside sources is a federal offense.

By participating in the 2008 Dress Rehearsal, Scotland County will be ahead of the game and well prepared for the Decennial Census.

Scotland County along with eight other counties, Chatham, Cumberland, Harnett, Hoke, Lee, Montgomery, Moore and Richmond make up one of two regions in the country selected to participate in the dress rehearsal.

McClettie said, "This region was selected by the Census Bureau because of the diversity of its population."

San Joaquin County, California, also will participate in the dress rehearsal.

McClettie added that whoever calls Scotland County home as of April 1 must be counted in the Dress Rehearsal, regardless of whether they have a physical address or move to another location the next day.

"The more aware residents are about the 2008 Census Dress Rehearsal the better informed they will be about the census process, and the more willing they will be to be part of a successful enumeration," said McClettie.



**Healthy Carolinains Coordinator Kathie Cox received the Recertification and William G. Anlyan Awards from Jeff Spade, left, and Battle Betts of the Governor's Task Force for Healthy Carolinians. The William G. Anlyan Award acknowledges a Healthy Carolinians Partnership that is distinguished in the community work that it has accomplished through collaboration, recognition and involvement of diverse segments of the community in order to reduce health disparities, development and creative use of community resources, and significant achievements resulting in community change.**

## Post Scripts

Congratulations to County Attorney **Ed Johnston** on the November 3 marriage of his daughter, Elizabeth Simmons Johnston, to Justin Merritt Smithson. ☼ Best wishes to **Nam Luhanga**, DSS, on the November 4 birth of her son, Mwiza Richard. ☼ **Deborah Holcomb**, Register of Deeds, attended a conference on Disaster Preparedness presented by the NC State Archives. ☼ **Dixie Whelpley**, Real Estate Appraiser/Revaluation Coordinator, was admitted to the designation of Certified North Carolina Appraiser. Whelpley received the recognition at the annual conference of the NC Association of Assessing Officers November 15 in Greensboro. Tax Administrator **Mary Helen Norton** also attended the conference.

Our condolences to **Crystal Norton**, Register of Deeds, on the November 8 death of her grandmother, Ruby Troutman, and to **Kaye McMillan**, DSS, on the November 21 death of her husband, Doug McMillan.

## Grant heralds bright future for RCC Scotland Center



**RCC President Diane Honeycutt thanks the community for their support. Behind her, left to right, are Commissioner and Chamber of Commerce Chairman Guy McCook, Representative Garland Pierce, Senator Bill Purcell, Representative Doug Yongue, Commissioner John Alford and School Superintendent Shirley Prince.**

Area leaders and representatives welcomed the birth of Richmond Community College Scotland Center and laid the Old Hospital site to rest November 20.

With the announcement of a \$900,000 grant from the State Community College System, RCC reached a \$3,475,000 funding level, \$200,000 short of goal, but sufficient enough to begin construction of its Scotland Center facility.

The campus is located at the intersection of Covington and McLean streets where the old hospital sat vacant and unattended for nearly 20 years.

RCC President Diane Honeycutt credited the success of the project to strong partnerships and teamwork throughout the community and among the State, County, local, private and public sectors.

Senator Bill Purcell and Representatives Doug Yongue and Garland Pierce were on hand to laud the achievement.

Commissioner John Alford said initially he was not aware of the magnitude of the challenge that lay ahead in order to turn the site into a community asset. "I didn't realize we had to buy the hospital before we could tear it down," Alford explained.

He added that now Scotland County can truly boast the presence of two colleges — RCC Scotland Center and St. Andrews.

Commissioner Guy McCook, who serves as Chamber of Commerce Chairman, agreed that the community should be proud, since strong partnerships and vision made the project a reality.

Outgoing City Mayor Ann Slaughter planted the seed for the project 18 years ago. Mayor Slaughter said she hated seeing the neglected building every time she drove by. "Now, it's a flat beautiful open space ready for the RCC campus."

RCC Scotland Center will house an industrial training program and nursing program. The college will continue to conduct literacy and continuing education activities at the Purcell Building on Atkinson Street.

Welcome to those individuals who joined Scotland County departments since August 16, 2007: **Debra Sandlin**, EMS; **Vickie Crowley** and **Quinton Williamson**, Jail; **Tina Strickland** and **Jeffrey Cook**, Sheriff; **Amanda Martin**, **Sandra Sutton** and **Vicki Barnes**, DSS; **Frederick McRae**, Public Works; **Kristen Patterson** and **Tammy Odom**, Health; **Dickey Chavis**, part-time with Transportation; **Alan Stewart**; **Alexis McNeill**, **Brian Krout**; **Dale Scott**; **Jawon McBryde**; **Jeffery King**; **Joshua McGirt**; **Michael Levario**; **Ronald Jones**, **Ryan Williford** and **Shawnquetta Jones**, part-time with the Recreation Complex; and **Uniqua Bostick**, temporary with DSS.

## Introductions & transitions

## Environmental protection stressed

**Text and photo by Terry Williams, Soil and Water Conservation**

Sycamore Lane Middle School sixth grade students attended the 21st Annual Environmental Field Day at Lumber River State Park.

The event was sponsored by the Scotland Soil and Water Conservation District and the Cooperative Extension Service.

Students enjoyed a day outdoors gathering information on natural resources and discovering how to protect them for future generations.

Environmental stations presented instruction on air quality, water quality, forestry, trees, woodpeckers, wildlife enforcement, composting and recycling.



**Solid Waste Enforcement Officer J.R. Horne discusses recycling do's and don'ts.**

## Spec building construction in progress

Construction of the 44,000-square-foot spec building is well underway at the Laurinburg-Maxton Airport Industrial Park.



When completed early next year, the spec building is expected to attract industrial prospects who might consider the structure an ideal facility.

The County and the City of Laurinburg is funding the project with a low-interest loan.

Board of Commissioners Chairman J.D. Willis said the spec building would attract prospects into the community. And if the facility is not what they are looking for, they might see another site in Scotland County that might be right for them.

A 1995 spec building project met with success when WePack acquired that structure. The building, 40,000 square-feet at the time, has since been expanded to 200,000-square-feet by WePack. The company also employs 35 people fulltime and fills a 100 additional positions seasonally.

Chairman Willis considers the spec building an investment explaining that when the right prospect comes in and purchases the facility, the funds would then be used to construct another spec building.

## the Birthday list for December

2 Tammy McRae (Jail), Peggy Robinson (Health) and Kimberly Cheek (DSS); 4 Lloyd Goins (Jail); 5 David Newton and Gyivan Collins-Jackson (Sheriff), John Deese (EMS) and Wendy Stanton (DSS); 6 Amy Ratley and Tracie Patterson (EMS) and Joyce Deal (DSS); 7 Joyce Maynor (DSS) and Guy McCook (Commissioner); 8 James Nichols (Jail); 9 Robert Jones (Transportation); 13 James Pegues (Sheriff); 14 Patricia Wells (DSS); 15 Morrison Lockey (EMS); 17 Kathie Cox (Health); 18 Nicole Peek (Health); 20 Gail Wright (Administration) and Earl Haywood (Sheriff); 21 Teresa Gorden (DSS); 23 Barbara Ledbetter (DSS); 24 Sandra Leonard (DSS); 26 John Alford (Commissioner); 27 Martin Davis (Public Buildings), Elfreda Locklear (DSS) and Holly Storey (EMS); 29 Nikki Jackson (DSS) and Dickey Chavis (Transportation); 31 Mary Freeman (Tax); Danielle Wilkins (Health) and Debbie Davis (Transportation).

## EMStatistics

### EMS Report for October:

**Responded to** 419 Medical/Trauma calls

**Treated** 41 total traffic accident patients

**Administered** 100 wellness/blood pressure checks

**Sold** 17 blue address signs

### 911 Report Highlights:

**394** EMS

**314** Sheriff's Department

**259** Laurinburg Police Department

**54** Fire Department

**502** hang-up calls

**84** wrong numbers

**37** open line calls

**1,210** cellular calls

**1,893** total calls to 911

### Top five complaints for EMS

#### Response

**57** breathing problems

**47** transfer/interfacility/ palliative care

**47** chest pain

**45** sick person (specific diagnosis)

**41** traffic accidents

### Weather Observations

#### (EMS Recordings)

**Temp (high)** 95 on 10/9

**Temp (low)** 38 on 10/30

**Wind (mph)** 18 on 10/19

**Rainfall (inches)** 2.01 on 10/26

*Compiled by Tommy Hatcher*

## Health, DSS staff dress up and enjoy the spirit of the season

*It might have been hair-raising. It might have been shocking. But at the Health Department and DSS, Halloween (aka Fall Celebration Day) is usually filled with fun, entertainment and laughter for the staff and the clients. At DSS, 27 staff dressed in their favorite costumes to impress Health Department judges Judy O'Brien and Lynda McMillan.*



*At DSS, Family and Children's Medicaid Unit — the Chain Gang (below) — placed third, while Karen Chavis (left) — the Law — took second place. Wendy Stanton's Dorothy (right) followed the yellow brick road to place first.*



*Health Department dressed up and enjoyed a ghoulishly delightful lunch. In front are, left to right, Kathie Cox, Judy McMillan, Evangela McArthur, Teresa Herring and Erica Hall. Back row, left to right, are Alisa Freeman, Kimberly McLamb, Nicki Peek, Danielle Wilkins, Donna Deese, Carlotta Rivers and Jannett Garcia.*

