

Scotland County

Monthly



NOVEMBER 2008

A newsletter for Scotland County employees

Hiring freeze approved

The Board of Commissioners approved a hiring freeze, effective immediately. It is not known when the freeze will be lifted.

Exceptions to the hiring freeze include EMS, child protective services and law enforcement.

The Commissioners agreed that any department that might experience extreme hardship from a vacancy would be welcome to make individual requests before the full board.

The governing board would then consider approval of the requests on a case by case basis. The County currently has 11 unfilled positions.

County Manager Kevin Patterson said with the current economic climate, counties and municipalities are taking steps to tighten their budgets, and a hiring freeze is considered the least painful option at this time.

Patterson said, "The recession has not impacted the County budget on a large scale, yet. Sales taxes are still on track, but they run two months behind."

He added, "With a probable decrease in sales taxes, no perceived increase in interest and the State's across the board cuts, we are looking to be very tight."

Library's amnesty program raises awareness of overdue books

Overdue books trickled into Scotland Memorial Library over the course of a two-week amnesty program. In all, about 100 of 5,100 outstanding books were returned, the fines forgiven.

The Library asked that materials returned be in good condition. Regardless, no questions would be asked nor fines charged. One book returned was borrowed in 1994.

Library Director Leon Gyles said some books were delinquent 16 years out. "Some, of course, are legitimately lost and will never be recovered. This was an attempt to remove at least one of the barriers to returning an overdue Library book."

Gyles added, "The vast majority, however, are still in the possession of the original borrower and could be returned if the borrower made a small effort."

The amnesty program gave people the opportunity to clear their records while it provided the Library a starting point with which to purge its catalogue in preparation for a software upgrade.

"What makes these losses especially difficult to bear is their effect on the borrowers," Gyles said of still overdue books.

"Imagine the frustration of a patron who desperately needs a particular volume to complete a project or some research but finds that week after week the necessary book is, according to Library records, checked out."

Gyles explained, "At a time when book costs are spiraling upwards, replacing a lost or missing book can often be far more than the original purchase price."

Icard named Economic Developer

Greg Icard has been named Economic Developer. November 10 was his first day on the job. Icard previously worked as constituent liaison and field representative for U.S. Rep Robin Hayes, a position he held since 2005.

The appointment of Icard concludes a nearly yearlong search that began after Chamber of Commerce President Jim Frank Henderson announced he would retire December 31, 2007.

News of Note

Blood Drive falls short of goal

With 21 employees presenting and 19 units collected, Scotland County fell short of its 30-unit goal at its October 30 blood drive. Human Resources Manager Susan Butler thanked those employees who came out to donate. She said she would review the results of the recent blood drive to determine how to maximize better results at the next blood drive scheduled for February. Butler said she would look into the possibility of changing the location of the blood drive from 507 West Covington Street to the Commissioners Chamber. A change of location would make it more convenient since it would be closer to the largest group of employees with the least flexible work schedules — DSS, Health and EMS — to participate.

Sneads Grove Recycle Center reopens

Sneads Grove Recycle Center has reopened. Hours of operation are 7 a.m. to 6 p.m. Monday, Wednesday, Friday and Saturday. Palmer Road Recycle Center hours of operation, which were extended while Sneads Grove was closed, have returned to its regular schedule of 7 a.m. to 6 p.m. Wednesday and Saturday.



Margaret Uncapher displays some of the books returned during two weeks of amnesty at the Library.



Chairman J.D. Willis, left, presented Commissioner Leon Butler with a plaque recognizing him for four years of public service as a County Commissioner representing Williamson Township. Butler will be succeeded by Bob Davis.

December Birthdays

2 Kim Cheek (DSS) and Peggy Robinson (Health); **4** Lloyd Goins (Jail); **5** David Newton and Gyivan Collins-Jackson (Sheriff), John Deese (EMS) and Wendy Stanton (DSS); **6** Tracie Patterson (EMS); **7** Guy McCook (Commissioner) and Joyce Maynor (DSS); **8** James Nichols (Jail); **9** John Willenburg (Public Buildings), Robert Jones (Transportation) and Richard Goforth (Cooperative Extension); **11** Tammy Kellogg (DSS) and Martin Nielsen (Health); **13** James Pegues (Sheriff); **15** Morrison Lockey (EMS); **17** Kathie Cox (Health); **18** Nikki Peek (Health); **19** Louise Williams (Library); **20** Earl Haywood (Sheriff) and Gail Wright (Administration); **21** Teresa Gorden (DSS); **23** Barbara Tilson (Jail) and Barbara Ledbetter (DSS); **24** Sandra Leonard (DSS); **26** John Alford (Commissioner); **27** Elfreda Locklear (DSS), Holly Storey (EMS) and Martin Davis (Public Buildings); **28** Gary Hutchinson (Jail); **29** Nikki McLaurin (DSS); **30** Tracy Johnson (DSS); **31** Danielle Wilkins (Health) and Mary Freeman (Tax).

Nonprofits recognized

Chairman J.D. Willis signed a proclamation declaring November nonprofit awareness month. Behind him are Commissioners Joyce McDow, left, Leon Butler and Betty Blue Gholston.



There are more than 34 charitable nonprofit organizations in the County that spend nearly \$140,000,000 serving its citizens. The proclamation celebrates and recognizes its local nonprofits for building partnerships and collaborating with governments, businesses, faith-based organizations and other groups to expand resources that support the community.

Local Extension, ECA join statewide effort to Support the Troops in Iraq, Afghanistan

Cooperative Extension and Extension Community Association (ECA) showed support for the troops in a significant way last month.

The local agency and the ECA joined with Extensions statewide in gathering popular and practical items for troops serving in Iraq and Afghanistan.

“The project provides needed items and letters of encouragement to troops serving overseas,” explained Family and Consumer Science Agent Sharon English.

County employees and residents were invited to participate in the project by donating an assortment of items such as individually wrapped candies, hand wipes, toothpaste, toothpicks, granola bars, cookies, mouthwash, notes of support and comics from newspapers.

Larger donations received by Cooperative Extension and ECA were boxes of individual soups from Campbell’s Soup and more than 100 handwritten notes from students at Shaw Middle School.

English and ECA South Central District President Juanita Bowen delivered the collected items to the State ECA Conference in Fayetteville, hosted by the South Central District ECA, which includes Scotland County. English said the Support the Troops Project donations are expected to be delivered to the troops by Thanksgiving.



Sharon English, left, and Juanita Bowen, pack donations for the Support the Troops project.



56 employees line up to P.A.S.S. — pull, aim, squeeze and sweep — in order to extinguish a small, controlled fire.

Employees P.A.S.S. the fire test

Text and photo by Roylin Hammond, EMS

An annual fire extinguisher training attracted 56 participants to the County Complex parking lot.

This year, employees from DSS, Health, Inspections, Cooperative Extension, Buildings and Grounds, Tax, Landfill, Administration, SCATS and EMS attended the training.

Donald Locklear, a fireman from the Laurinburg Fire Department, provided the instruction (the P.A.S.S. method) and equipment, and he conducted a live fire training exercise.

SCATS staff members have this type training every year. This year, Risk Manager Tiffany Flowers recommended that the training be offered to all County employees.

Each participant had the opportunity to actually Pull the pin, Aim the nozzle, Squeeze the handle and Sweep the fire with an extinguisher in order to put out a live fire.

The County expects this to be an annual offering to all County employees in the future. The training was arranged by Wanda Britt as part of the ongoing monthly training provided for SCATS drivers.