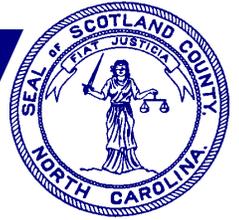


Scotland County

Monthly



NOVEMBER 2009

A newsletter for Scotland County employees

American Legion thanks Blackwell



County Engineer Jim Blackwell, left, received the Award of Merit from American Legion Post 50 Commander Dan Skamperle.

The award recognized Blackwell's guidance and help in restoring Legion Park, a local historic landmark.

Skamperle said, "Jim was recognized because he stepped up to the plate when the Legion Post was in need."

Skamperle suggested that the project became personal to Blackwell because he had watched and played ball at Legion Park during his youth.

The restoration project began one year ago after American Legion Post representatives asked the Commissioners for assistance in restoring the field.

The American Legion Post received communitywide support from the County, City, School System and citizens through public and private funds and in-kind services.

In May 2009, the Scotland County Historic Properties Commission designated Legion Park as a local historic site.

Built by the WPA (Work Projects Administration), Legion Park has been in continuous use since it was built in 1945.

Improvements included converting a doublewide classroom to a space for restrooms, changing area and storage. The baseball fencing was replaced and the bleachers repaired.

Simple methods used to recycle/reuse

by Jim Blackwell, County Engineer

Due to the increase in the number of items recycled and the handling of recyclables by Wagram Paper Stock and with the cooperation of the City of Laurinburg, employees can now comingle recyclables rather than put them in the trash.

Employees can reduce solid waste and increase recycling at events, dinners and luncheons that take place at County facilities.

There has been some concern about the potential difficulty of recycling at larger events. This can be overcome by following a few simple rules.

There have been numerous very large events with thousands of people, yet waste levels of near zero were achieved by following a few basic concepts. All that is required to bring about change is a little perseverance.

Below is a list of do's:

1. Purchase reusable or recyclable products whenever possible. If products coming in the building are not reusable/recyclable, the chance for success is minimal. The old saying is true, "Garbage in equals garbage out." Items to use are recyclable plastic plates and cups, paper and vinyl table cloths, cardboard or chip board packaging, etc. Ask Solid Waste Enforcement Officer Bobby Horne for additional information regarding "recycle purchasing products." With the large number of items accepted for recycling at Wagram Paper Stock, this process should be fairly simple and is the first and most important step to control.



see *Recycle*, page 3

Employees enjoy bonus leave at holidays

by Kevin Patterson, County Manager

Most of you may be aware that in lieu of a cost of living increase this year, the Board of Commissioners approved an extra three days of leave to be taken during the holidays in December. The three days equate to 24 hours of leave.

Most County offices will be closed December 21 to 25. Bonus leave is December 21 to 23 and the holidays are December 24 and 25.

An employee must be in active pay status December 18 and December 28 in order to be eligible for the paid bonus leave and the holiday pay.

Employees in public safety departments — Sheriff, Jail and EMS — will receive 24 hours of additional leave they may take on alternate dates as approved by their supervisor.

The leave will be required prior to taking regular annual leave, and it must be identified on the timesheet as bonus leave when it is taken.

Since the last two weeks of the year are peak time for Tax, Register of Deeds and Public Works, department heads will schedule alternate dates for their employees for the 24 hours of bonus leave.

The department head, for example, might schedule some staff to take bonus leave during the week of Thanksgiving and remaining staff to take bonus leave Christmas week in order to stagger the leave and maintain adequate department coverage in order to serve citizens.

Bonus leave does not apply to part-time hourly employees who normally do not receive leave accruals or holiday pay. For part-time employees whose leave accruals and holiday pay are normally pro-rated, the bonus leave will likewise be pro-rated.

If you have any questions, please channel them through your department head.

Bowen receives State award for leadership

Scotland County Extension and Community Association (ECA) member Juanita Bowen was recognized at the annual ECA State meeting held last month.

Bowen, a 38-year member of the Central Friendship ECA Club, received the South Central District Leadership Award.

The South Central District is made up of 15 counties including Scotland County. The Leadership Award recognizes one member from each of the six Extension districts representing North Carolina.

Cooperative Extension Family and Consumer Science Agent Sharon English nominated Bowen.

"Juanita is dedicated to Cooperative Extension and ECA," English said. "She has a desire to bring educational programs through this partnership that will improve the lives of our citizens."

Throughout her years of volunteer service with ECA, Bowen served in leadership capacities on the County level.

On the District level she served as Recording Secretary, Second Vice-President, First Vice-President, President and Advisor. She served as Corresponding Secretary and Recording Secretary on the State level.

During the conference Bowen completed requirements for ECA Master Volunteer, the result of training over a two-year period.

ECA, a volunteer organization with Cooperative Extension, helps members and citizens strengthen families through education, community service and leadership development.

For information on Cooperative Extension or ECA, contact the Extension office at 277-2422.

the Birthday list for December

2 Kimberly Cheek (DSS) and Peggy Robinson (Health); **4** Lloyd Goins (Jail); **5** Charles Stone and Wendy Stanton (DSS), David Newton and Gyiavan Collins-Jackson (Sheriff) and John Deese (EMS); **6** Tracie Patterson (EMS); **7** Guy McCook (Commissioner) and Joyce Maynor (DSS); **8** James Nichols (Jail); **9** Robert Jones (Transportation), Richard Goforth (Cooperative Extension) and John Willenburg (Public Buildings); **10** Gina Paul (EMS); **11** Martin Nielsen (Health) and Tammy Kellogg (DSS); **13** James Pegues (Sheriff); **15** Morrison Locky (EMS); **17** Amy Grissom (DSS) and Kathie Cox (Health); **18** Nicole Peek (Health); **19** Louise Williams (Library) and Ronetta Hunt (EMS); **20** Earl Haywood (Sheriff) and Gail Wright (Administration); **21** Teresa Gorden (DSS); **23** Barbara Tilson (Jail), Barbara Ledbetter (DSS) and Hattie Ray (Elections); **24** Sandra Leonard (DSS); **26** John Alford (Commissioner); **27** Holly Storey (EMS) and Elfreda Chavis (DSS); **28** Gary Hutchison (Jail); **29** Maisha MLcLaurin (DSS); **30** Tracy Johnson (DSS); **31** Danielle Wilkins (Health).

Class on identity theft prevention, frauds and scams protection set

Identity theft is the fastest growing crime in the nation. Approximately 300,000 North Carolinians have their identity stolen each year.

In addition, North Carolina residents lose millions of dollars every year due to consumer frauds and scams such as sweepstakes, charities and home repair.

Scotland County residents will have the opportunity to learn how to protect themselves against identity theft, frauds and scams at a workshop addressing these issues.

Cooperative Extension and Extension and Community Association (ECA) in collaboration with Scotland County Parks and Recreation will host a free workshop on **Identity Theft — Protect Yourself and Frauds and Scams Standing Up — Fighting Back**. Rose White-Hearn, Outreach Specialist from the NC Department of Justice will be guest speaker.

The workshop will be held Thursday, December 3 from 2 p.m. to 3 p.m. at Scotland Place. A repeat session, hosted by Cooperative Extension and ECA, will be offered that evening, 5:30 p.m. to 6:30 p.m. at the Cooperative Extension office, 231 East Cronly Street. The public is invited to attend either session.

"We are very pleased to have Mrs. Hearn from the State Attorney General's office speak to citizens about identity theft protection and frauds and scams," said Sharon English, Family and Consumer Agent with Cooperative Extension.

"During these tough economic times it is more important than ever to protect ourselves and learn information that can help prevent citizens from becoming a victim of these types of crimes," English explained.

The workshop kicks off the second annual Cooperative Extension and ECA Shred-It Event scheduled for Saturday, March 20, 2010.

Shred-It provides an opportunity for citizens to dispose of paperwork that contains personal information too risky to throw out yet too bulky to keep. For more information on the workshop or upcoming Shred-It Event, please contact English at 277-2422.



State ECA President Dorothy McKoy, left, and Juanita Bowen.

EMStatistics

EMS Report for October:

Responded to 409 Medical/Trauma calls

Treated 34 total traffic accident patients

Animal Control calls after hours/emergency 31

Sold 21 blue address signs

Blood Pressure checks (walk in) 98

911 Report Highlights:

388 EMS

348 Sheriff's Department

338 Laurinburg Police Department

44 Fire Department

849 hang-up calls

109 wrong numbers

45 open line calls

1,757 cellular calls

3,810 total calls to 911

Top five complaints for EMS Response

78 sick person (specific diagnosis)

39 chest pain

37 transfer/interfacility/palliative care

36 falls/back injuries

34 breathing problems

34 traffic accidents (total patients)

Weather Observations

(EMS Recordings)

Temp (high) 87 on 10/7,9,15

Temp (low) 36 on 10/20

Wind (mph) 21 on 10/18

Rainfall (inches) .99 on 10/5

Compiled by Tommy Hatcher

Post Scripts

Umeko Terry, EFNEP PA (Expanded Food and Nutrition Education Program), is working with teen moms in the **Eating Smart and Moving**

More program. Participants will graduate in January 2010. While in the program, the moms prepared and sampled recipes. Classes are informative for the young mothers, who say they are enjoying all the sessions and are taking advantage of the information presented. ☘ Five 4-H volunteers attended the South Central District 4-H Volunteer Leader Fall Day November 7 in Moore County. Volunteers were **Ruth Ann Ammons, Kenyatta Covington, Brenda Terry, Precious Byrd** and **William Byrd**. Participants attended workshops on a variety of topics from container gardening to the State 4-H Master Volunteer program. This year, William Byrd and Walter Brown are representing Scotland County in the Volunteer Leaders' Association by serving as District Treasurer and Parliamentarian, respectively. New District officers were elected to serve in 2010. From Scotland County, Ruth Ann Ammons was elected as District Secretary and Precious Byrd was elected as District Parliamentarian.



Teen moms prepare healthy recipes.

Our condolences to **Ernest Stephens**, Inspections, on the October 27 death of his mother-in-law, to **Beverly Wranosky**, DSS, whose sister passed away October 19, and to **Lisa Tew**, Health, on the November 13 passing of her mother-in-law.

Employee action and cooperation help make recycle project successful

continued from page 1

2. Provide containers to receive the recycled products after they are used. Thanks to the City of Laurinburg and Harold Haywood, there are enough blue containers inside each facility and larger recycle containers replacing the previous solid waste dumpsters.

3. Provide hands-on training and education on how to plan and operate a successful recycling event, meeting, dinner or luncheon. Officer Horne is available to provide education, technical assistance and demonstrations of how to turn waste into recyclables.

4. A designated person should manage the event to insure correct procedures are followed. Without proper oversight and direction, plans normally get mixed results. We all have the responsibility to recycle, but someone needs to be in charge at each facility.

5. If it is unavoidable and you must use paper or styrofoam plates or other nonrecyclable materials, clean out food wastes and restack them inside each other in a manner similar to how they were purchased. The less space we use the better.

6. Always remove food waste from plates or boxes used to serve food. Normally food wastes can be rinsed from plastic plates and the plates can be recycled. It is a good practice to always separate food wastes.

Now for the list of don'ts

1. Don't buy or use styrofoam or paper plates and cups. They are not recyclable at this time.

2. Do not expect recycling to take care of itself. Someone at each facility or event needs to be responsible for planning and seeing that waste reduction/recycling practices are being followed. If we have learned anything about recycling in the last 20 years it is that voluntary programs normally do not produce desirable results. That is the reason the State has imposed material bans for landfills such as aluminum cans, plastic bottles, cardboard, for example.

3. Don't give up. This is an educational process. It may take several repetitions in order for the process to become routine.

4. Don't be afraid to ask questions. We are here to provide answers. We operate one of the most effective rural recycling programs in the State. If we don't know the answer we will get it.

Schedule set for flexible benefit enrollments

Mark III Brokerage will be available December 1, 2 and 3 to discuss one-on-one with employees the 2010 enrollment for Interactive Medical and/or Dependent Care reimbursement accounts, AFLAC Personal Accident Plan, Assurity Cancer Plan, Superior Vision Plan, Standard Life Short Term Disability Plan and Texas Whole Life Plan.

The sessions are mandatory for new hires in 2009 and optional for all other employees. Keep in mind, however, that this will be the only opportunity employees will have to enroll for these benefits.

Employees enrolled in the Medical/Dependent Care accounts who wish to continue the service must re-enroll each year.

This also is the time for employees to make any changes or enroll in the Interactive Medical Systems Dental Plan.

Enrollment sessions are in 15-minute increments. Human Resources Manager Susan Butler will register two employees per time slot.

Schedule and locations are: 9 a.m. to 12 p.m. and 1 p.m. to 2:30 p.m. Tuesday, December 1, 507 West Covington Street; 4:30 p.m. to 7 p.m. Tuesday, December 1, Sheriff's Department; 9 a.m. to 12 p.m. and 1 p.m. to 5 p.m. Wednesday, December 2, Commissioners Chamber; and 9 a.m. to 12 p.m. and 1 p.m. to 5 p.m. Thursday, December 3, back at 507 West Covington Street.

Email Susan Butler at sbutler@scotlandcounty.org or call 277-2403 with a preferred date and time to avoid any waiting.

Kelly Martindale from the Prudential NC 401(k) Plan will be available the same dates and locations so employees can discuss any issues regarding their 401(k) accounts.



Health Department Relay for Life volunteers rest at their campsite at Pate Stadium. From the left are Teresa Herring, Jannett Garcia and Lisa Lundy.

Address confidentiality helps protect victims of abuse

Address Confidentiality — Walk Away and Start Again will be hosted by Cooperative Extension and Extension and Community Association (ECA) in collaboration with Domestic Violence and Rape Crisis Center of Scotland County.

The workshop will be 10:30 a.m. to 11:30 a.m., Thursday, December 3 at the Cronly Street Annex. Rose White-Hearn, Outreach Specialist, NC Department of Justice, will speak.

The Address Confidentiality Program (ACP), administered by the State Attorney General's Office, provides a substitute address to victims of domestic violence, sexual offense, stalking or human trafficking, to use in place of their actual address.

The goal of the ACP is to ensure that perpetrators of domestic violence, sexual offenses, stalking or human trafficking cannot use the State's public records to locate their victims.

NC courts handle approximately 200,000 domestic abuse cases a year. The numbers underestimate domestic violence in North Carolina because many victims do not file complaints.

"We encourage local agencies to attend this informative meeting," said Sharon English, Family and Consumer Science Agent, Scotland County Cooperative Extension. "In working with our clients, we may be able to share this resource and make a difference in someone's life."

Follow these tips for a safer holiday shopping experience

Economic woes and job uncertainty will undoubtedly make this holiday season more stressful and increase the potential for crime, theft and other fraud.

Millions of Americans will be hitting the stores during the next month, starting with the busiest shopping day of the year — the Friday after Thanksgiving.

To help keep your holidays safe and happy, stay alert and be aware of your surroundings. Carry your purse close to your body and your wallet in an inside or zippered pocket. Never leave your purse unattended in a shopping cart, on a countertop or in your car.

Don't carry large amounts of cash and minimize the number of debit or credit cards you carry. Pay by credit card, rather than check/debit card to reduce the risk of funds being taken from your bank account. Keep all receipts and compare them to your monthly credit card statements.

Park your car close to your destination and hide any packages in the trunk. Shop during daylight hours if possible and if you do shop at night, park in a well-lit area.

When returning to your vehicle, keep your keys out and lock your doors as soon as you're inside. Shop with others whenever possible. If shopping with children, make sure they know what to do if they become separated from you. Report suspicious activity to store/mall security or law enforcement.

Information provided by www.nixle.com alert.

Introductions & transitions

Welcome to those individuals who joined Scotland County departments since September 16, 2009: **Eric Icard**, Sheriff; **Randall Gibson**, part-time with EMS; and **William Edge**, temporary with the Sheriff.

The Medicaid Christmas Story

by Sandra Leonard, DSS

T'was the day before Christmas vacation, when all
Through the Medicaid Hall IMCs were busily
Working, to keep Eva from climbing the wall.
The reviews were all filed correctly in their drawer,
While returned Medicaid cards fluttered to the floor;
With Eva at her desk, and Angie in a chair, they
Had just settled their brains to discuss Long Term Care,
When out in the Lobby there arose such a clatter,
All sprang from their desks to see what was the matter.
Away to the door we flew like a flash,
Tore the door from its hinges and threw it in the trash.
The lights in the hallway illuminated our way as
We carefully tiptoed to make sure everything was OK.
When, what to our wandering eyes should appear,
But the SCATS bus filled all the way to the rear!
The bus driver was tired and walking slow,
We knew in a moment it must be Joe.
More rapid than eagles his workers they came,
Joe whistled and shouted and called them by name;
"Now Frances, now Joyce, now Susan and Teresa J!
On Angie, on Sandra, on Kim and Teresa V!
Go get Medicaid booklets on the Medicaid hall!
Now dash away, dash away, dash away, all!"
As dry leaves that before the wild hurricane fly,
When they meet with an obstacle, mount to the sky,
So each to their office the workers they flew,
With arms full of forms, and their clients, too.
And then, in a twinkling, the printer I heard
As it began repeating every word.
As I lifted my head, and turned my chair around,
Down the Medicaid hallway Dorothy came with a bound.
She was dressed in jeans and tennis shoes wore,
For it was 4:45 and we had clients out the door!
A bundle of ink pens on Eva's desk she laid,
She knew we all would use them in order to get paid.
Her eyes, how they twinkled! Her dimples, how merry!
As she reminded each worker at 5:00 they must scurry.
One by one on the clients they came,
and at each we smiled and called them by name.
Their questions we answered with knowledge and care
And treated all as if they were the only ones there.
We gave them their list of things to return
While making sure each line they could discern.
With one — no two more — questions they rose to go,
While workers emailed the Front Desk the results to know.
With a tear in our eye and a pain in our bladder,
We went for the next client praying not to splatter.
We filled out all the forms, made the file just so,
In hopes that home for Christmas we would all soon go.
When the last client went through the front door,
with winged feet to the bathroom each worker did soar.
Files, pens, mail and unfinished cases were hid,
As each weary worker was transformed into a kid!
With keys in their hands and love in the hearts
They all ran praying their cars would start.
But I heard them proclaim as they drove out of sight,
"Happy Christmas to all, and to all a good night!"