

SCOTLAND COUNTY MONTHLY

OCTOBER 2004

A newsletter for Scotland County employees

Real estate records go on-line

The County's real estate records are now available on-line through rod.scotlandcounty.org/resolution. It is not necessary to key in "www" before the on-line address.

Register of Deeds Jane Callahan said, "This should be a great convenience for the people of Scotland County." Attorneys, paralegals, realtors and surveyors especially would benefit from the site.

Records dating back to 1978 can be researched, and some images are available.

The Register of Deeds began scanning documents in December 2003, and Callahan said there is much scanning work still to be done.

The webpage includes a link to "searching tips."

"Scotland County's history of indexing is on that page, and it will be most helpful to you as you begin to use our website," Callahan said.

The Register of Deeds website also is included as a link from www.scotlandcounty.org.



Photo by Roylin Hammond

Citizens lined up for the flu vaccination Saturday, October 9, at the Health Department. Several days earlier health officials learned the supply of flu vaccines would be halved this year.

Flu vaccine shortage continues

A national shortage of the flu vaccine resulted in a recommendation by State health officials to vaccinate only those people who are most likely to be seriously affected by the flu.

"The number of doses of flu vaccine available nationally has been cut in half, which means we will have to prioritize who gets vaccine in North Carolina as well," said Dr. Leah Devlin, State Health Director. "The people who are most likely to be seriously affected by the flu should get the vaccine."

The Health Department vaccinated 638 people in the first five hours the vaccine was made available locally to the public. It has since provided the vaccine to nearly 1,800 people who are considered high risk.

The CDC recommended that the following people get the flu vaccine:

- All children aged 6 to 23 months
- Adults 65 and older
- Persons aged 2 to 64 years with underlying chronic medical conditions
- All women who will be pregnant during the influenza season
- Residents of nursing homes and long-term care facilities
- Children aged 6 months to 18 years who are on chronic aspirin therapy
- Health-care workers involved in direct patient care
- Out-of-home caregivers and household contacts of children who are less than 6 months old.

For the first time in its history, the CDC is recommending that people outside of those risk groups not get the vaccine.

Tina Oxendine, Preparedness and Response/Communicable Disease Supervisor, said the Health Department distributed information on what people can do to avoid infection.

Oxendine said wash hands frequently, avoid touching your nose and mouth and stay home if you are sick.

She said, "It's unfortunate the vaccine was unavailable for everyone who wanted it, but it was very much appreciated that most people followed the criteria set by CDC, and people who were most at risk were able to receive the vaccine."

Only pediatric vaccines for 6 months to 23 months and for children 24 months to 35 months who have a chronic disease are now available locally through the Health Department.

The flu vaccine shortage came to light October 5 when United Kingdom pharmaceutical company, Chiron, announced that it would not be shipping the estimated 48 million doses it had planned to ship. Chiron's license was suspended by U.K. authorities, and an investigation of that situation is being conducted at the federal level.



Early Vote turnout steady

The first week of EarlyVote attracted 1,620 citizens to the polls, down from the nearly 2,000 recorded during the same Early Vote period in the 2000 presidential election.

Laptop-sized touch screen voting machines were used to cast votes.

EarlyVote concluded 1 p.m. October 30, and the electronic voting machines were shut down. Representatives from the company that owns the machines will arrive Election Day to download the returns. Results will be announced 7:30 p.m. that evening. The lever voting machines will be used at all precincts November 2.

Post Scripts

Commissioner Clint Willis was named the first ever recipient of the Best Practices Award September 30 by the State Association of Boards of Social Services. Willis was recognized for outstanding leadership and meritorious service as President of the State Association. He was honored in part for his participation in the development and implementation of the Leading by Results Initiative, which has been incorporated in the local DSS agency as well as others throughout the State. He also received a certificate of appreciation from the Lumber River Council of Governments (LRCOG) for his service on the regional agency's Board of Directors and as President of the Transportation Advisory

EMStatistics

EMS Report for September:
Responded to 367 Medical/Trauma calls
Treated 58 motor vehicle accident patients
Provided 5 medical coverages
Administered 106 blood pressure checks
Gave 1 department presentation

911 Report Highlights:
Received 1,374 total calls
336 EMS
263 Sheriff's Department
124 Laurinburg Police Department
20 Fire Department
287 hang-up calls
92 wrong numbers
59 open line calls
628 cellular calls

Weather Observations (EMS Recordings)
Temp (high) 88 on 9/23
Temp (low) 53 on 9/20
Wind (mph) 26 on 9/17
Rainfall (inches) 3.19 on 9/7
Compiled by Tommy Hatcher

Committee of the Rural Transportation Planning Organization. ☘ People who shop at Food Lion can benefit foster children using their MVP card. Link your Food Lion MVP card on-line to **Foster Children's Association (FCA)**, and Food Lion will send donations quarterly to the Association. The amount of the donation will be determined by the amount of sales recorded on the MVP cards. Cards can be linked by customer service in the store or on-line at www.foodlion.com. Direct donations also are appreciated. Volunteers who wish to serve on the FCA board may contact Myra Hill 276-1066 (after 6pm) or cell 280-3220. ☘ We wish a speedy recovery to **Angela "Sissy" Hunt**, Sheriff's Department. ☘ Agricultural Extension Agent **David Morrison** held a Pesticide Recertification Clinic September 23. Morrison also hosted participants on the Scotland County Cotton Tour September 9. Morrison recently received the Conservation Award from Woodmen of the World. ☘ DSS extends its prayers to **Bonnie Norton**, Public Buildings, and her husband. ☘ **Mary Helen Norton** and **Hope Hatcher**, Tax Department, attended Fundamentals of Property Tax Listing and Assessing, October 11 to 15 at the Institute of Government. ☘ **Mildred Williams** traveled to Atlantic Beach September 14 to 17 for a meeting of North Carolina Association of Veterans Service Officers. ☘ **Donna Faye Barton**, Adult Expanded Food and Nutrition Education Program Assistant with Cooperative Extension, received a State Outstanding Performance Award. ☘ **Rhonda Saffel** and **Shelia Jackson**, Tax Department, attended a Listing and Filing of Bankruptcy Workshop October 6 at the Institute of Government. ☘ EMS Staff attended the 2004 Emergency Medicine Today conference in Greensboro October 4 to 6. **Pat Lathrop** and **Mike Edge** attended a RAM billing software update seminar; **Cory Baldwin**, **Wayne Mace**, **Randy McArthur** and **Robert Sampson** attended paramedic continuing education classes; **Roylin Hammond** attended EMS administrator workshops. He also attended the 2004 Fall North Carolina Emergency Management Association Conference in Atlantic Beach October 17 and 20. Mike Edge attended a RAM software Crystal Report Writing update

class in Warrendale, PA, at the RAM Corporate offices October 25. ☘ In Health Department news: Congratulations to **JC Dunn**, August Employee of the Month, and to **Larry Herring**, September Employee of the Month. Welcome **Kimberly Locklear**, Child Services Coordination Program. **Dr. Paul Fuchs** was appointed to the Board of Health. The Health Department looks forward to working with him. Congratulations to **Angela Moore** RN BSN for successfully completing the Sexually Transmitted Disease Clinician Training. **Carlotta Rivers** RN BSN was recognized in the *Medical University of South Carolina Alumni Magazine* as being employed as a public health nurse. She is increasing her responsibilities with the agency and transitioning to Coordinator of the Maternal Health Program. Thanks **Lynda McMillan** and **Kathie Cox** for coordinating Relay for Life efforts with DSS staff. More than \$3,600 was raised between both agencies. **Health Department staff** deserve tremendous praise for their hard work in administering hundreds of doses of flu vaccine during each clinic.

SCOTLAND COUNTY PARKS & RECREATION

Basketball Sign-Ups

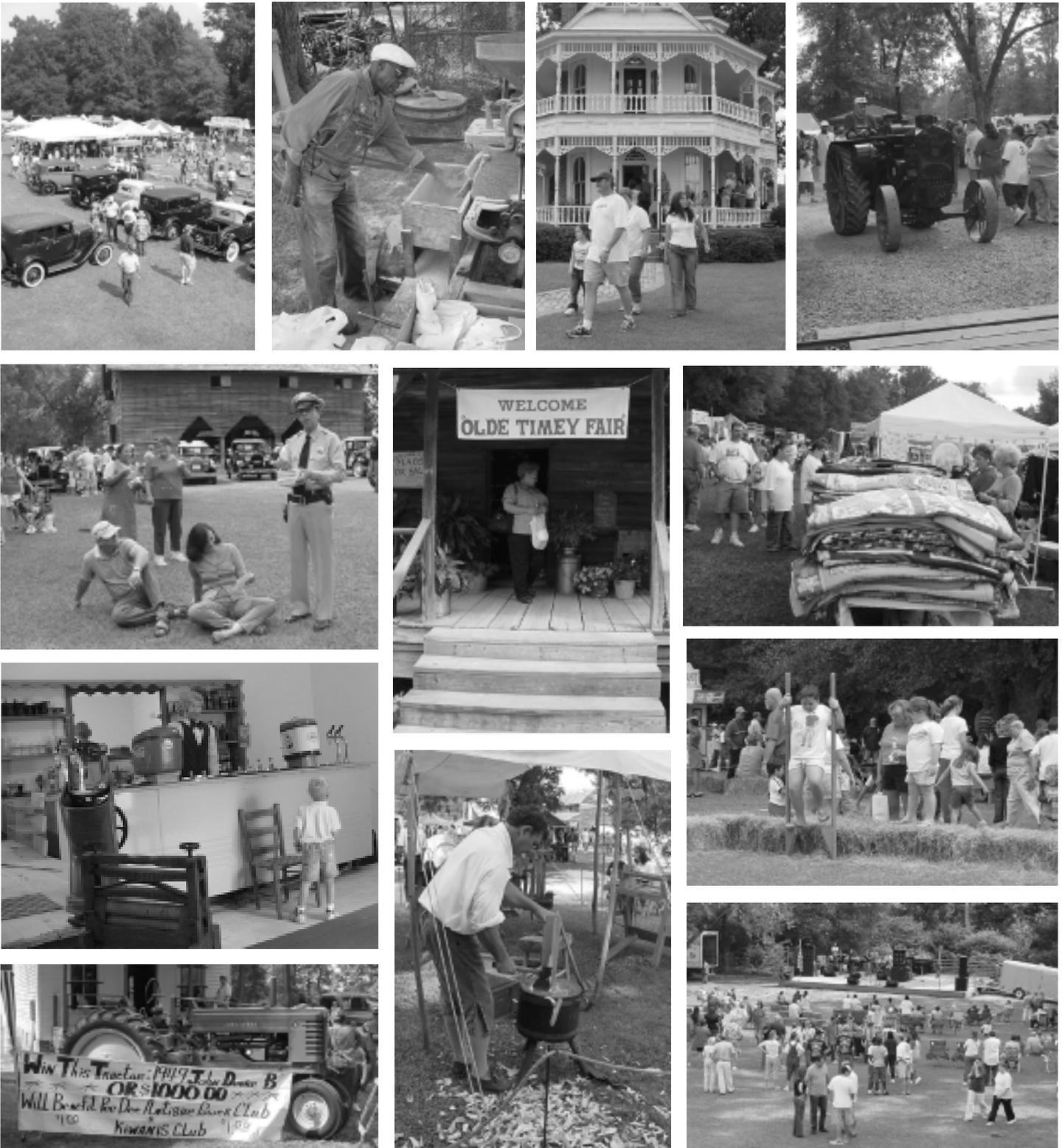
Scotland County Parks and Recreation Basketball Sign-Ups are Monday November 8 through Saturday November 13. Registration for boys and girls ages 7 through 15 will be 8 a.m. to 5:30 p.m., Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday and Friday. Parks and Recreation will be closed Thursday, November 11. Saturday registration will be 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. A parent or guardian should bring proof of age for new players. Registration fee is \$10. Call Parks and Recreation, 277-2585, for more information.

Concord Trip

Older adults can enjoy a trip to various locations in North Carolina each month. The November 18 trip is to the Historic Bost Grist Mill and Concord Mills in Concord. A trip to the Southern Supreme Fruitcake Factory is planned for December 16. Fee is \$6 per trip and covers transportation. Lunch is on your own. Registration for the November trip begins November 2, and the December trip registration begins December 7. Call Scotland Place Senior Center, 277-2550, for more information.

Health Screenings

Scotland Place Senior Center and the Health Department will sponsor a Health Screening Friday, November 5, 8:45 to 10:30 a.m. Blood sugar, blood pressure and cholesterol will be checked. No fasting is required. The Health Screening is open to older adults. Call Scotland Place Senior Center, 277-2550, for more information.



John Blue Cotton Festival wraps up another successful year

The John Blue Cotton Festival did not disappoint. Nearly 10,000 people enjoyed the two-day event, which celebrated its 21st year. Spending at least part of the weekend at the festival has become an annual ritual for many. It is a huge fall event for Scotland County and attracts visitors from across the State and the southeast. A celebration of Scotland County's heritage and agricultural history; the festival featured foods, crafts, exhibitions and entertainment.

Clockwise bottom left: A 1949 John Deere tractor is up for grabs; The soda fountain is the latest feature in the A.D. Gibson Store; The Mayberry Deputy issues tickets; Vintage cars are displayed; Fresh corn meal is bagged; Visitors tour the John Blue House; A tractor stops at the railroad track; Quilts attract shoppers; Children try stilt walking; Entertainment continued throughout the weekend; Woodright Thomas Tucker demonstrates his skill; Shaw Cabin is the site for the "olde timey fair."

the Birthday list for November

2 Roylin Hammond (EMS), James Austin and Carol McCall (DSS) and Mary McCallum (Sheriff); 3 Wanda Sheppard (Tax); 5 Lynn Poe (Administration) and Regina Smalls (DSS); 6 Ernest Stephens (Inspections) and Richard Best and Adam Sessoms (Sheriff); 8 Brian Lowry (Health); 10 Donna Barton (Cooperative Extension); 12 Wayne Gay (Sheriff); 14 Felicia Roller and Kelvin Howell (Sheriff); 16 Amy Tucker (EMS); 17 Mac McArthur (EMS) and Penny Gibson (Public Works); 18 Robert Sampson (EMS) and Joy Nolan (Public Works); 19 Sam Snowdon (Commissioner); 20 Deborah Treadway (DSS); 23 Charlotte Gibson (DSS), Tina Grubbs (EMS) and James Jacobs (DSS Board); 22 Rachel Beach (Inspections) and Alicia Kraut (Parks and Recreation); 23 Corbett Baldwin (EMS), Margaret Nicholson (Health) and Beverly Wranosky (DSS); 24 John Ball (EMS); 27 Andy Roberts (EMS) and Larry Herring (Health); 28 Betsey Ellerbe (Health) and Terry Stanton and Carolyn Isbell (DSS); 29 Steve Edge (Public Works); 30 Jennifer Goff (DSS) and Michaelle Reece (Health).

Students enjoy environmental awareness day

by Terry Gaaney, Soil and Water Conservation



J.R. Horne, far right, discusses the importance of recycling.

An estimated 215 sixth-graders and teachers from Sycamore Lane Middle School enjoyed a day outdoors gathering information on our natural resources and learning how to protect them for future generations.

19th Annual Environmental Awareness Field Day was sponsored by the North Carolina Cooperative Extension Service and the Scotland Soil and Water Conservation District at Camp Monroe October 5.

Students visited eight environmental stations at Camp Monroe where State and local representatives discussed the importance of clean air, the nature and habitat of animals, the honey bee in its role of pollination of the fruit and flower chain.

Students identified trees of local importance and discussed the dangers of forest fires. Laws protecting wildlife, recycling and water conservation also were studied.

The students received a Conservation Pledge bookmark pledging to "save and faithfully to defend from waste the natural resources of our country, its soil and minerals, its forests, waters and wildlife."

Child Welfare unit called a 'trailblazer'

The County's Social Services Child Welfare Unit was recognized by the State as a trailblazer for being the first among counties to accept the Challenge for Children.

The local unit accepted the Challenge in 1997 to reduce the backlog of children who remain in DSS custody. In 2003 Scotland's Child Welfare staff reduced its backlog by 31 percent while other counties of similar size saw a 7 percent increase in backlog. There was a 1 percent decrease in backlog statewide.

A child moves into the backlog when they have been in DSS custody for 12 months. DSS Director Jan Elliott explained, "In the life of a child, 12 months is a long time."

Challenge for Children is to have a child in a permanent situation, back with family including other relatives or in an adoptive placement, within 12 months of coming into the agency's care. Statewide in 1997 a backlog of 6,034 was reported by 67 counties. In 2004 the backlog of children reported by 97 counties was 4,754.

Jan Elliott recognized

DSS Director Jan Elliott was selected by her peers as recipient of the Member of the Year of the Lumber River Youth Council.

She was honored at the October 11 Lumber River Workforce Development Recognition Banquet.



Jan Elliott

The development system builds a well trained, ready workforce and attracts high-skilled, high wage jobs through collaborative leadership in the community. The Lumber River Youth Council offers youth preparation for the competitive labor market through education and training opportunities.

Elliott was praised for her advocacy of these efforts and for her strong support of the youth of the community.

Introductions & transitions

The following individuals joined Scotland County Departments since August 16: **Kristin Owens** and **Tina Grubbs** are parttime in EMS; **Michelle Skipper** joins the Health Department fulltime; and **Roberto Cruz** has joined Cooperative Extension as Extension Assistant. **Linda Jones** makes the transition from parttime to fulltime in Transportation. Other transitions include **Carol McCall** from Parks and Recreation to DSS and **Penny Gibson** from Register of Deeds to Public Works.

Low Income Energy Assistance Program (LIEAP) applications will be taken November 1 to 5 and 8 to 12 at DSS, 8 a.m. to 12 p.m. and 1 p.m. to 4 p.m. Most households that received food stamp benefits for October may be eligible for an energy check. Those who did not receive food stamps for October must apply at DSS to receive this benefit.

Scotland County Monthly is published by the County Manager's Office to provide news and information to employees.

Comments, suggestions and story ideas are welcome.

Contact 277-3191 or akurtzman@scotlandcounty.org.