

# Scotland County Monthly



OCTOBER 2005

A newsletter for Scotland County employees

## Commissioners consider regional landfill options

The siting of a regional landfill in Scotland County, which would generate millions in revenue, create jobs and attract industry, is being considered by the Board of Commissioners.

The Commissioners took the first step in what could be a five-year process by approving a Solid Waste Franchise Ordinance on first reading in October.

County Manager John Crumpton said Waste Management, Inc., the largest solid waste collection and disposal service in the United States and Canada, could generate up to \$2 million in revenue for the County in its first year of operation and create 100 jobs.

He said revenue could increase to \$4 million in succeeding years of operation. Crumpton added that the regional landfill would accept household waste only. No hazardous waste would be accepted.

There are other pluses associated with siting a regional landfill in Scotland County. Crumpton said industries prefer to locate in communities that have affordable solid waste operations nearby.

He added that the free hauling and disposing of all County solid waste in the regional landfill is one option that could be negotiated.

Richmond County also is being considered as a possible site for the regional landfill.

**See Message from the Manager, page 3, for more on the regional landfill.**

## Influenza impact studied

Since "pandemic" and "avian flu" are media buzzwords the Health Department hosted a tabletop exercise, which focused on avian influenza, how the community would react to a pandemic and the steps needed to educate, treat and protect citizens.

"This subject was picked because pandemic is what people are worried about," said Dr. Keith Henderson, Team Leader with the State Public Health Regional Surveillance Team. "We can look at a serious impact of an influenza pandemic, not necessarily avian flu."

He added, "Part of being prepared is being ahead of the game, thinking out of the box and preparing for things you might not ever use."

Dr. Henderson stressed that the exercise is a "hypothetical." He added, "There is no avian flu in the United States, and there is no evidence it has been transmitted from person to person."

*see Flu, page 5*

## Equipment enhances 911 capabilities

A computerized telephone that stores up to 1,250 one-button touch numbers is a prized feature of the new equipment being used by EMS dispatchers since August.

EMS Operations Officer Mike Edge said the numbers stored in the computers are the ones most frequently called, such as 911 transfers and employee contact information.

It allows EMS staff to control directory changes in-house rather than to rely on BellSouth to come in and make the changes, Edge explained. "Our old phone set had only 17 one-touch numbers. Now we can handle the internal aspects of 911 better."

The equipment also helps locate the source of a 911 call from a landline telephone and, when necessary, gives the dispatcher information to direct an emergency vehicle to the source of the call using GIS data rather than a map.

The hardware and software is manufactured by Positron, which specializes in 911 equipment. A second station at the EMS dispatch center mirrors the first and allows for redundancy in case a computer fails.

The equipment is funded entirely by the 911 fund, the 70-cent charge found in the monthly telephone bill.

Edge said the equipment still is new, and once staff irons out the bugs, they will be ready to test locating the source of cellphone calls.

"We receive cell phone calls from people traveling through from out of town, and they have no idea where they are or where they are calling from or whether they are calling from our jurisdiction," Edge said. "We've had people call us from as far away as I-95."

Some things won't change, though. EMS Dispatcher Tommy Hatcher said, "We will still ask the same questions — where are you, what's your phone number and what's the problem — and verify the call."

Hatcher said, "With all this new equipment, citizens still can help by purchasing a blue 911 sign for only \$10. Just stop by EMS, and a 911 sign can be ready in only five minutes."

## United Way seeks employee support

*by Susan Butler, Personnel Administrator*



It's time again for Scotland County's Annual United Way Campaign, which runs through November 15. United Way materials were distributed along with the September payroll. Extra cards or brochures are available in the Personnel Office. A list of agencies supported by the United Way is on the back of the brochure.

The local chapter's goal this year is \$322,876, which is a reduction from previous years.

*see United Way, page 5*



**Mike Edge reviews the new equipment in the EMS dispatch center.**

## Health Clinic planned for neediest citizens



Doris Douglas calls them “the forgotten ones.” They are the people with the greatest need — the community’s uninsured whose numbers have swelled to more than 6,000, many of whom are 17 and younger.

Douglas, Chair of the Community Health Clinic Board, was successful in her appeal to the Board of Commissioners to approve locating a free Community Health Clinic on County property.

The clinic, pictured, is a 1,756-square-foot modular unit being used as the Wagram Family Practice. It was donated to Community Health Clinic by the Scotland Health Care System Board of Trustees. A larger family practice facility will be placed at the Wagram site.

The Commissioners agreed to locate the free clinic on the east side of the Health Department where power, water and sewer service is available.

Volunteer licensed physicians, physician extenders, registered nurses, nursing extenders and laboratory technicians will staff the free clinic.

Volunteer lay people from the community will perform various other duties to support the clinical staff and meet the needs of patients.

The Health Clinic Board will be responsible for locating the facility, maintaining the necessary insurance coverage and paying expenses associated with operating the clinic.

## Improved weather favors Festival

Despite heavy rain the week of the John Blue Cotton Festival, the wet weather made way for mostly overcast skies by the weekend, and the 22nd annual event was held as planned.

The John Blue Cotton Festival Committee hosted a successful weekend even though attendance was off slightly, and some vendors were no-shows.

Pictured, clockwise from the top: Tours were held at the John Blue House. Families get in line for a ride on the Cotton Blossom Railroad. Food vendors were plentiful. Children play checkers in the A.D. Gibson Store. Exhibitors demonstrate their handiwork.



### HERE'S TO YOUR HEALTH!

Healthy fats include monounsaturated fats — such as olive oil — and polyunsaturated fats — such as corn oil and sunflower oil. A balanced mix of polyunsaturated and monounsaturated fats appeared best for helping control cholesterol in a recent study.

### 3 days added to holiday schedule

Most employees will enjoy an entire week off at the end of the year, thanks to the Board of Commissioners.

The Commissioners included an extra three-day holiday December 27, 28 and 29 when they approved the budget for the 2006 fiscal year.

Additionally, the Commissioners approved December 30, 2005 as the New Year's Day holiday instead of January 2, 2006 allowing most employees a full week off.

All non-essential personnel must take the time off on the days approved by the Commissioners. Essential personnel will have 24 hours added to their annual leave.



### 2006 Holiday Schedule

New Year's Day	December 30, 2005	Friday
Martin Luther King, Jr. Birthday	January 16, 2006	Monday
Good Friday	April 14, 2006	Friday
Memorial Day	May 29, 2006	Monday
Independence Day	July 4, 2006	Tuesday
Labor Day	September 4, 2006	Monday
Veteran's Day	November 10, 2006	Friday
Thanksgiving	November 23 & 24, 2006	Thursday & Friday
Christmas	December 25 & 26, 2006	Thursday & Friday

**Additional days off approved by the Board of Commissioners include Tuesday through Thursday, December 27, 28 and 29, 2005.**

## SCOTLAND COUNTY PARKS & RECREATION

**Youth basketball registration** for boys and girls is scheduled for the week of November 14 at **Scotland Place Civic Center** on Turnpike Road. Registration times are 8 a.m. to 5:30 p.m. Monday to Friday and 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. Saturday. There will be a \$10 fee for all participants. Residents in Laurel Hill, Wagram and Gibson can register in their communities at the following locations and times: **Laurel Hill Community Center**, Monday, November 14, 4 p.m. to 5:30 p.m.; **Gibson Gym**, Tuesday, November 15, 4 p.m. to 5:30 p.m.; **Wagram Primary School**, Thursday, November 17, 4 p.m. to 5:30 p.m. Age groups are Rookie League for 7 to 8 year olds, Little League for 9 to 10 year olds, Midget League for 11 to 12 year olds and Junior League for 13 to 15 year olds. Any participant who reaches their 7th birthday before January 1, 2006 and has not reached their 16th birthday before January 1, 2006 will be eligible to register. When registering participants, parents or guardians must show proof of age for youth who have not played with Parks and Recreation before. No phone registrations will be taken.

## DSS plans energy assistance

The low income energy assistance program (LIEAP) will be available again this year. Those who meet the income guidelines and are responsible for paying their own heating source may qualify for an energy check.

Those currently receiving Food Stamps as of September 30 with certification through October 2005 or later and meet all LIEAP guidelines will automatically receive an energy check next February 2006.

All other households can apply for the check during the November 7 to 18 application period at the Scotland County Department of Social Services.

No appointment is necessary, although applications will be taken 8 a.m. to 12 p.m. and 1 p.m. to 4 p.m. according to last name on the following days:

**A-F - Monday**

**G-P - Tuesday (except M)**

**Q-Z - Wednesday**

**M - Thursday**

**Open - Friday**

Applicants must bring the following information: identification for head of the household, Social Security number and birthdays for all household members, heating bill for October, bank statement for October and October income.

*The energy assistance article was published in the Scotland County Monthly for two consecutive months to give those who qualify ample time to gather the information required for application.*

## DSS Chair appointed

New DSS Board Chair Juliet McMillan shakes hands with former Chairman Clint Willis, who was appointed to the State Social Services Commission. DSS staff hosted a reception for Willis just prior to the October Social Services Board meeting.



## Message from the Manager



**John A. Crumpton**

As the County moves along in the 05-06 budget year new projects are being considered that we hope will help the County financially.

First, the Commissioners will consider a significant offer from Waste Management to locate a regional landfill in the County.

Host fees from WM would initially start at around \$2.1 million a year based on 3,000 tons a day and increase to almost \$4 million a year if the daily tonnage received at the landfill goes to 5,000 tons a day.

This project is significant because it could help the Commissioners lower the tax rate. Information handouts on the proposed landfill are available at my office. I encourage you to learn more about this project and its potential impacts.

Administration continues to work on a new Risk Management/Safety Policy. A draft of this policy will be presented to the Commissioners at the November meeting.

Once in place, Departments will have opportunity to review the important aspects of the policy and how it will impact employees and departmental procedures.

Safety is our first priority since reducing accidents and injuries saves the County money, and employees will understand the importance of being safe on the job.

The Finance Department is now reviewing payroll procedures and meeting with vendors who specialize in time management software. The amount of time employees/departments spend getting timesheets and time studies together is a concern of mine as is the amount of time Payroll spends manually entering timesheets into the payroll system.

Time and productivity savings can be achieved by going to an automated system. The cost/benefits of such a system are currently being reviewed. The Commissioners will receive a report on the system during the first Budget Workshop in early spring. It is expected that a new system would make the hour tracking system easier for all employees, improve customer service and save money.

These are just a few ways we are trying to bring savings or new revenue to the County. If you have similar ideas that would represent a savings or generate revenue, please bring them to my attention or to the attention of your supervisor.

In closing, I would like to thank everyone for their hard work and dedication to the County. The more I work with each of you the more I appreciate the talent and effort each of you put into your jobs.

The Holiday Season is coming up soon, and I hope you and your families have a great Season. You all have earned it.

## Introductions & transitions

Welcome to those individuals who joined Scotland County departments since August 16, 2005: **Debra Kersey** and **Janett Lamourt**, Health, and **Bessie Sinclair** and **Namangolwa Luhanga**, DSS. **James Brown** transitioned from temporary with Public Works to full-time.



**Laurinburg City fireman John Johnson watches SCATS driver Debbie McRae extinguish a fire.**

## Fire preparedness taught

Scotland County Area Transit System (SCATS) drivers learned the importance of PASS — four letters to remember when extinguishing a fire.

As a reminder, PASS instructions are located on the fire extinguisher. P — pull the pin. A — aim at the base of the fire. S — squeeze the handle. S — sweep side to side.

John Johnson of the Laurinburg Fire Department said the most important thing to do before using the fire extinguisher is to call 911.

SCATS Safety Coordinator Wanda Britt said, "In case a fire was ever to break out on one of the vans, the drivers would know how to use a fire extinguisher."

## Post Scripts

Congratulations to **Mary Helen Norton** who achieved certification as a North Carolina Tax Administrator. ❧ Congratulations to **Wayne Mace**, who was selected September EMS employee of the month, sponsored by MacTucker. Best wishes to **Amy Ratley**, who enrolled in the Nursing program at Robeson Community College. Amy will continue as a part-time EMS employee. ❧ In DSS, congratulations to **Phyllis Clark**, named Pilot Sweetheart by the Laurinburg Pilot Club and to **Jan Elliott**, named Workforce Development Board Member of the Year for 2004-2005 by the Lumber River Workforce Development Board. Congratulations to **Commissioner Clarence McPhatter** and wife **Lisa McPhatter**, DSS, on the September 8 birth of daughter Clarelisa Corine McPhatter. ❧ In Health Department news: Welcome back to **Pearlene Leggett**. Congratulations to **Danny Sprouse** R.S., selected as September Employee of the Month and to **Miriam Bounds** R.N., selected as the October Employee of the Month. Speedy recovery to **Lisa Locklear**. All Health Department staff participated in a training October 28 conducted by the Employee Assistance Program entitled, "Stress in the Workplace." Employees also are being trained on Personal Protective Equipment, Incident Command and the National Incident Management System.

# News of Note

## Reappraisal delayed until 2011

The next reappraisal of real property will begin January, 1 2011, instead of January 1, 2007. The Board of Commissioners in 2004 had approved conducting a four-year revaluation cycle. However, the most recent sales ratio study by the State Department of Revenue shows the market value of Scotland County homes at 97.48 percent. The Commissioners agreed that an eight-year cycle would be more practical when the sales ratio study would show a greater difference in property market value. State law requires counties to go through the revaluation process every eight years with some counties opting for four and six-year cycles depending upon market value.

## EMS ambulance approved for purchase

EMS will soon be getting a new ambulance. The agency had budgeted \$93,000 in this fiscal year to purchase the vehicle. Responding to a bid package, Northwestern Emergency Vehicles submitted a \$96,443 bid. EMS Director Roylin Hammond said by omitting a new mobile VHF radio system and some inside storage cabinetry, Northwestern reduced the cost to \$93,000. Hammond said the omitted items can be transferred to the new vehicle from an older one.

## Health Promotions supported

The Commissioners agreed to support the Health Promotions Program for the remainder of the fiscal year. The Health Department learned earlier this month that federal monies supporting preventive health were cut in half.

## 401(k) contacts provide answers

County employees are eligible to enroll in the NC 401(k) Plan administered through Prudential Retirement. The employee may contribute any amount ranging from 1% (or \$20, whichever is greater) to 80% of their gross wages, up to a maximum of \$14,000, into this plan. The County, in turn, will contribute 3.75% of the monthly gross wages and credit this amount to the employee's account. (By State Law, Law Enforcement Officers receive a 5% employer contribution regardless of their voluntary contribution.) Like the retirement plan, the 401(k) plan also is tax deferred, which reduces Federal and State tax withholding. There are several investment options offered with the 401(k) Plan as well as a loan provision. Further details of the plan are explained in the 401(k) booklet. You may contact Prudential Retirement at 1-866-NC401K1 (1-866-624-0151) or log on to the website, [www.nc401k.prudential.com](http://www.nc401k.prudential.com).

## Blackwell's cattle wins award

County Engineer Jim Blackwell and his daughter Jenni brought top awards home from the North Carolina State Fair in Raleigh. The Blackwells' cattle won both grand and reserve in female and bull shows. Blackwell, who has been competing in livestock competitions at the fair for 15 years, co-ops with a farm in Mooresville. Blackwell competed in the Gelvieh division while his daughter competed in a junior division for the Gelbvieh breed. Grand is first place, and reserve is second place.

## Agencies recognized for fundraising effort

The Health Department and DSS were recognized October 17 for their support of and contributions to the Relay For Life. Both agencies received the silver level plaque for raising \$4,354 for this year's Scotland County Relay for Life, which raised \$250,000 to fund research and programs of the American Cancer Society.

## EMStatistics

### EMS Report for September:

**Responded to** 375 Medical/Trauma calls  
**Treated** 32 motor vehicle accident patients

**Provided** 5 medical coverages

**Administered** 89 wellness/blood pressure checks

**Sold** 43 blue address signs

### 911 Report Highlights:

**Received** 1,637 total calls

**332 EMS**

**344 Sheriff's Department**

**138 Laurinburg Police Department**

**49 Fire Department**

**348 hang-up calls**

**128 wrong numbers**

**46 open line calls**

**785 cellular calls**

### Weather Observations (EMS Recordings)

**Temp (high)** 97 on 9/17

**Temp (low)** 62 on 9/29

**Wind (mph)** 28 on 9/29

**Rainfall (inches)** 1.28 on 9/29

**Compiled by Tommy Hatcher**

## Supplies sent to Katrina victims



**DSS Adult Services donated boxes of supplies and cash to the campaign.**

**Seated left are Phyllis Clark, Marcia Coble, Antonia Rainer and Kimberly McRae. Standing left are Beverly Wranosky, Sheryl Primus and Amy Inniss.**



**Left to right, Terry Gainey, Cathy Graham, Roberto Cruz, Nancy Hughes, Bill McMillan, Hazel McPhatter, Mary Freeman and Kevin Patterson pack donated items.**

4-H youth and County staff filled 229 packages with toiletries, baby items, educational supplies and other items necessary to make life easier for Katrina victims living in shelters and temporary housing.

The effort was part of a statewide 4-H "Helpful Hands, Healing Hearts" Campaign. The 229 packages were loaded into a 15-passenger van for transport to Cumberland County, one of 40 Cooperative Extension and State 4-H drop off sites.

The donated items were then transferred to one of seven tractor-trailers destined for the Gulf Coast states.

Scotland County 4-H Agent Sharon English said, "It is gratifying to see an entire community rally for a common cause — to ease in some way the suffering of others."

She added, "Our 4-H volunteers did a tremendous job donating supplies, seeking donations from others and preparing everything for Gulf Coast transport."

"I am grateful to them as well as the Scotland County Board of Commissioners, staff and community for supporting this campaign in such a big way."

## 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); **6** Ernest Stephens (Inspections) and Richard Best and Adam Sessoms (Sheriff); **8** Brian Lowry (Health); **10** Donna Faye Barton (Cooperative Extension) and Evelyn Thomas (DSS Board); **11** Dr. Paul Fuchs (Health Board); **12** Wayne Gay (Sheriff); **14** Felicia Roller and Kelvin Howell (Sheriff); **17** Randy McArthur (EMS); **18** Joy Nolan (Public Works) and Robert Sampson (EMS); **20** Deborah Starr (DSS); **23** Charlotte Gibson and James Jacobs (DSS) and Tina Grubbs (EMS); **24** John Ball (EMS); **27** Larry Herring (Health); **28** Carolyn Isbell (DSS), Betsey Ellerbe (Health) and Janna Wegner (Elections Board); **30** Jennifer Goff (DSS); **30** Michealle Reese (Health).

## United Way seeks support

*continued from page 1*

A one-time contribution or monthly payroll deduction may be made. Please list your name and address on the card and return to your Department Head or designated person as soon as possible.

Each person who gives a Fair Share will have the choice of a Scotland County Bicentennial Collector's Coin or Bicentennial Christmas Ornament. Fair Share is one hour's rate of pay per month. Other departments may be offering their own internal incentives.

Despite some difficult budget years, employees have demonstrated strong support for this Campaign.

Past employee totals are as follows: \$10,300 in 2001; \$13,493 in 2002; \$11,991 in 2003; and \$9,576 in 2004.

I challenge each employee to contribute at least the same as last year or even increase the tax-deductible contribution by \$1 per month.

## Flu outbreak scenarios discussed

*continued from page 1*

Pandemic flu can emerge any time during the year. It results from a new or novel flu virus that becomes easily transmitted from human to human. "With a pandemic, everyone everywhere has the same thing going on at the same time," explained Dr. Henderson.

Avian flu is a type of flu virus that infects birds that has the potential to cause a pandemic. This current avian flu virus is circulating in birds in Southeast Asia and has been associated with some transmission to humans. Currently it is not easily transmitted from human to human, which is the key point.

Dr. Henderson assured that the poultry industry in the United States takes avian flu very seriously and does all it can to ensure the safety of its workers and product. "For humanitarian and monetary reasons, it is

worth it to the industry to pay attention."

Nearly 50 people from health, medical, first responder, law enforcement, agricultural and poultry fields participated in the exercise.



**Brian Combs, Hygiene Consultant, State Regional Surveillance Team, discusses scenarios of a pandemic flu outbreak.**

# Record numbers use SCATS

Story and photo by Roylin Hammond, EMS

October was a busy month for the Scotland County Area Transit System. Eight 14-passenger vans provided shuttle transportation to the 1,100-plus Cycle North Carolina cyclist who visited the area October 6. The cycling group spent a week peddling from Asheville to Wilmington and passed through Laurinburg on a very wet and rainy day.

SCATS vans picked cyclists up at St. Andrews and carried them to local hotels and restaurants. SCATS transported approximately 435 cyclist during their overnight stay.

The Scotland County Tourism Development Authority reimbursed SCATS for the cost of providing the day's transportation service.

A few days later, October 8 and 9, SCATS provided shuttle service from the County Complex on West Boulevard to the annual John Blue Cotton Festival. Vans and drivers transported 1,341 riders during the two days of the festival. The number was down slightly from previous years due to rainy weather, which might have kept some people from attending the event.



**SCATS is used during the John Blue Cotton Festival.**

# Benefactor shows appreciation for work done by DSS staff



**Massage therapist Marcia Glenn with a DSS employee.**

An anonymous benefactor showed appreciation for DSS staff in a most unusual way by funding a 15-minute massage session for every employee.

Phyllis Clark, for instance, was more than ready for her 10:15 a.m. appointment. As Adult Services Supervisor, her day began at 6:30 a.m. distributing \$2,000 in \$100 increments to support grandparents 60 and over who are raising their grandchildren.

The money helps grandparents fund back to school costs. Vouchers are issued to qualifying families in the amount of \$100 per child following a brief application process. Grandparents were in line by 6:30 a.m. All vouchers were distributed by 9 a.m.

The Division of Aging and Adult Services receives federal funding to support family caregivers, and those dollars are distributed to the Lumber River Council of Governments.

Those approved for vouchers shop on a day and at a location designated by COG staff, who are present to redeem the vouchers.

"This program, although small, is much appreciated by those participating," said DSS Director Jan Elliott. "It clearly is needed as we had 540 grandparents in Scotland County identified in the 2000 census who were responsible for their grandchildren."

# Early Vote held at Elections Office

Employees who live in Laurinburg, East Laurinburg, Gibson and Wagram are invited to participate in their municipal elections and Vote Early. Elections Office hours are 8 a.m. to 12 p.m. and 1 p.m. to 5 p.m. Monday through Friday. The last day to vote early is Saturday, November 5, 8 a.m. to 1 p.m.

# Prepare for a safe winter

by John Crumpton, County Manager

Whether at home or at work, the following are helpful hints on how to keep you and your family safe during the winter.

With the summer's high temperatures it's hard to believe winter is approaching quickly. There are several things you should do at home and at work to get prepared for cooler weather.

### Home Safety:

- ✓ Check your furnace or heat pump before the switch to heat, which will help avoid fire hazards and ensure efficient heating.
- ✓ Check lines for leaks if you use heating fuel of any type.
- ✓ Clean the chimney if you use a fireplace, and check the chimney for leaves or pine straw before lighting the first fire.
- ✓ Keep space heaters at least three feet

away from any combustible material including drapes, carpeting and furniture.

- ✓ Keep children and pets away from heating equipment.
- ✓ Install a smoke detector on each level of the home.
- ✓ Check your smoke detectors.
- ✓ Prepare your car for winter.

### Work Safety:

- ✓ Dress appropriately. Wear extra layers of clothing to protect yourself from the elements.
- ✓ Wear appropriate footwear. Cold weather can affect your ability to walk properly. Wear appropriate shoes for work.
- ✓ Check your work area for items that may be in the way of air flow from a central heating unit. If your office is cold, please alert the Public Buildings staff.
- ✓ Keep fluids in your system if you work outside. Dehydration can still occur in cold weather, especially if you have added clothing layers to stay warm.
- ✓ Portable heating of shops and offices can be dangerous. Only OSHA approved systems should be used.
- ✓ If you drive a County vehicle, have the vehicle readied for the cooler weather.

If you have any concerns about your safety on the job, please bring them to your supervisor's attention.



**Chairman J.D. Willis signed a proclamation in recognition of National 4-H Week October 2 to 9. Clay Brooks, Cathy Graham and Brandi Smith, right, stand behind him.**