

Scotland County Monthly



OCTOBER 2006

A newsletter for Scotland County employees

Inspections permitting goes automated

Inspections permits will now be printed and posted to the County's database right from the field with the addition of software application WindoWare Inc.

The Windows-based system allows inspectors to automate all permit activities and manage inspections with ease and efficiency. The integrity of the data is maintained throughout the process, and each type of entry is validated to prevent inaccurate or incomplete data.

"The new inspections software would allow quicker processing of the actual permits in the office," said Finance Officer/Assistant County Manager Kevin Patterson.

He explained, "After applications are completed in the office, inspectors will take the databases they need on a tablet PC for inspections in the field. Everything the inspectors will need will be done in the field. The permit would be printed in their car and posted before inspectors ever leave the job site."

Patterson said since the inspectors now will have the entire file, which is the history of the job they are going out to inspect, it will eliminate the need to return to the office to get more information.

"The processing of data will be put back into the actual database much quicker after the inspection is done," Patterson said. "This will reduce the inspectors having to do handwritten notes and having to explain that so it can be keyed in to the current system."

The system also keeps contractor information up to date so Inspections will know when licenses are due and can request renewals.

Meanwhile, Inspections Director Ernest Stephens is experimenting with the software on a tablet PC with a 12-inch monitor, which is roughly the size and shape of a laptop screen.

"The tablet is a sleeker, easier to handle and more portable computer for field work," Patterson said. "The tablet uses a large stylus and has freehand recognition, which transcribes what the inspectors write." Inspector vehicles also will be equipped with printers on small stands.

Inspections staff as well as Planning and Zoning and Code Enforcement staff participated in a three-day training period on how to use the software.

Campaign supports local agencies

by Susan Butler, Human Resources Manager

It's time again for Scotland County's Annual United Way Campaign, which runs through November 15.

Please review the recently distributed United Way materials, particularly the back of the brochure, which lists the local agencies supported by the United Way.



Remember, your contributions go to local agencies that serve Scotland County citizens.

The goal for this year's Scotland County campaign is \$299,297.

You may make a one-time contribution or do monthly payroll deductions. If you wish to make a contribution, 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 their "Fair Share" will receive a small gift of appreciation. "Fair Share" is a contribution equal to one hour's rate of pay per month. Other departments may be offering their own internal incentives.

Contributions are tax deductible, and the dollars remain in our community. No gift is too small. When combined with the gifts of others, great things can be accomplished.

US 74 upgrade discussed at forum

More than 100 citizens attended a public forum on the proposed Interstate I-74 project, a portion of which is expected to run through Laurel Hill.

Hosted by the Scotland County Board of Commissioners and the Lumber River Rural Transportation Planning Organization, the public forum gave citizens an opportunity to ask questions and express opinions about the I-74 project.

The North Carolina Department of Transportation proposes to upgrade to interstate standards the section of US 74 from the Rockingham/Hamlet bypass in Richmond County to the Laurinburg bypass where US 74 and 74 Business separate in Scotland County.

see I-74, page 4

Vote Early turnout is strong



Scotland County residents expressed an enthusiastic willingness to vote early this year. Lines like the one pictured above were not uncommon as citizens took advantage of the one-stop Vote Early opportunity in the Annex conference room. More than 1,000 people cast their ballots at the conclusion of the fifth day of one-stop voting.

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Legion Park gets new goalposts



Rodney Morton and Steve Walters, inset left to right, of Edwards Inc., donated a pair of goalposts to Legion Park for use by the Parks and Recreation football leagues. Walters (kicking), coach for one of the football teams, constructed and installed the new goalposts. The old goalposts had been at Legion Park more than four decades when Laurinburg High played there.

SCOTLAND COUNTY PARKS & RECREATION

Self defense classes for women ...

A four-week course designed to help women recognize predatory behavior, take proactive steps to prevent assaults and develop skills to defend themselves and loved ones if necessary is being sponsored by Parks and Recreation. The comprehensive approach will address emotional, mental and physical training.

The class will be held Mondays and Thursdays, 7 p.m. to 8:30 p.m., at the Laurel Hill Community Center. The first class begins November 6. Fee is \$40. Instructor Andy Tietjen earned a Masters Degree in Psychology, is a self defense instructor for the Justice Department and has a Black Belt in Hapkido. Contact Scotland County Parks and Recreation 910-277-2585 for more information or to register.

Youth basketball registration ...

Registration will be November 13 to 18 for youth basketball. Registration time at Scotland Place will be 8 a.m. to 5:30 p.m., Monday to Friday, and 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. on Saturday.

Residents in Laurel Hill, Gibson and Wagram can register in their communities from 4 p.m. to 5:30 p.m. as follows: Laurel Hill Community Center, Tuesday, November 14; Gibson Gym, Wednesday, November 15; Wagram Primary School, Thursday, November 16.

Age groups are Rookie League, 7 to 8; Little League, 9 to 10; Midget League, 11 to 12; Junior League, 13 to 15. Any participant (boy or girl) who reaches their 7th birthday before December 31, 2006 and has not reached their 16th birthday before December 13, 2006 will be eligible to register for basketball. There will be a \$10 registration fee for all participants.

Message from the Manager

The recent Economic Summit, which was initiated by the Chamber of Commerce, City of Laurinburg and Scotland County, demonstrated that key players in our community are committed to making the County an even better place to live and work than it is already.

The development of short and long-term goals for the community were a result of the Summit. Most goals revolved around quality of life issues — Parks and Recreation, educational opportunities at St. Andrews and Richmond Community College Scotland County Campus, improving the local school system, completing I-74 and creating more economic/business opportunities.

The most important task now is to initiate a plan to move forward and make these goals a reality. I will work with the Chamber over the next few weeks on goal development.

It is election time. Campaign signs are everywhere. I encourage each of you to exercise your right to vote. You can vote early in the Annex conference room through November 4.

If you haven't been to the Sports Complex lately, I encourage you to take a look at it. Congratulations to Jim Blackwell and his staff for the great work they are doing at the Complex. The softball/baseball fields should be completed in December, and work will start very soon on the new soccer fields.

On a safety/risk management note, our workers compensation and property liability claims are down in the first quarter of this year versus last year. This positive trend will continue if all employees think about being safe and healthy everyday. Check your work areas for safety issues and correct them. Bring safety issues outside your work area to the attention of your supervisor, or notify my office of the problem. Stay safe, and our premiums will eventually come down. Reversing our recent trend takes time and commitment, so stay focused on safety.

Thanks to Kevin Patterson and his staff for their work in the implementation of the new time management system, the planned move to Covington Street, and the procurement of building inspections software. I am confident Inspections staff will be pleased with the efficiency of the new system once it becomes fully operational in the next few weeks.

As for the Covington Street project, Administration and related departments will move sometime in December pending installation of the phone system and data lines. It is not yet determined who from the Courthouse will move into the space we vacate.

I want to thank all the employees of the County for their hard work and dedication. Halloween always reminds me that the Holidays are right around the corner. I hope everyone makes time during the Holidays for what is truly important — family.

4-H youth places in photo contest

Local 4-H youth DeAngelo Byrd placed second in the annual 2006 NC 4-H Photography Contest with his photo entitled "100 Years of Making the Best Better." The photo, which featured his 100-year-old great-grandmother, Sallie Mae Hasty Graham, was a winner in the Junior division (ages 9–12) in the Interesting People category.

A photography exhibit is unveiled at 4-H Congress in Raleigh each summer. Winning photos are then displayed at selected meetings and events throughout the year.



John A. Crumpton



Students learn to protect natural resources

by Terry Byrd, Soil and Water Conservation

The North Carolina Cooperative Extension Service and the Scotland Soil and Water Conservation District sponsored its 20th Annual Environmental Awareness Field Day for Scotland County 6th graders at Lumber River State Park.

An estimated 200 students and teachers from Sycamore Lane Middle School enjoyed a day outdoors gathering information on our natural resources and how to protect them for future generations.

Students visited eight environmental stations at the park — Air Quality, Animals, Bees, Recycling, Woodpeckers, Forestry, Wildlife Conservation and Water Quality.

Aly Dyson and staff of the NC Division of Environment and Natural Resources, Division of Air Quality, taught students the importance of clean air in our lives and in the life of every living thing around us.

Lumber River State Park Ranger Ronald Anderson presented a preserved animal display and discussed the nature and habitat of each animal.

Bee Specialist Lauder Calhoun discussed the honey bee in its role of pollination of the fruit and flower chain.

Mac McDougald and staff of the North Carolina Forest Service assisted students in identifying trees of local importance, the roles trees play in our environment as a natural resource and the importance and dangers of fires in our forests.

Scotland County Solid Waste Enforcement Officer J. R. "Bobby" Horne taught the importance of recycling today and what students as individuals can do to help recycle.

Loren Dunn, City of Laurinburg Water Treatment Plant, discussed the process of treating waste water, plant design and tips on conserving water.

Susan Miller, US Fish and Wildlife Service, discussed red-cockaded woodpeckers and the longleaf pine/wiregrass ecosystem.

Craig Ferguson and staff of the North Carolina Wildlife Resources Commission explained the different laws in Scotland County to protect wildlife and why these laws are important.

Each student was given a Conservation Pledge bookmark to carry home pledging to save and faithfully to defend from waste the natural resources of our country, its soil and minerals, its forests, waters, and wildlife.



J.R. Horne discusses recycling.

EMStatistics

EMS Report for September:
Responded to 410 Medical/Trauma calls

Treated 44 motor vehicle accident patients

Administered 92 wellness/blood pressure checks

Sold 19 blue address signs

911 Report Highlights:

371 EMS

245 Sheriff's Department

167 Laurinburg Police Department

31 Fire Department

634 hang-up calls

126 wrong numbers

40 open line calls

1,050 cellular calls

1,837 total calls to 911

Top five complaints for EMS

Response

61 sick persons (specific diagnosis)

50 breathing problems

44 traffic accidents

41 chest pain

37 transfer/interfacility/palliative

care

Weather Observations

(EMS Recordings)

Temp (high) 90 on 9/3, 4, 19

Temp (low) 48 on 9/30

Wind (mph) 25 on 9/4

Rainfall (inches) 1.68 on 9/14

Compiled by Tommy Hatcher

the Birthday list for November

2 Roylin Hammond (EMS), Mary McCallum (Sheriff) and James Austin and Carol McCall (DSS); 3 Wanda Sheppard (Tax); 4 Teresa Eddins (Register of Deeds); 5 Lynn Poe (Administration); 6 Thomas Sessoms and Richard Best (Sheriff) and Ernest Stephens (Inspections); 8 Brian Lowry (Health); 10 Evelyn Thomas (DSS) and Donna Faye Barton (Cooperative Extension); 11 Dr. Paul Fuchs and Dr. Joey Harris (Health Board); 12 Wayne Gay (Sheriff) and Judy DuBois (DSS); 14 Kelvin Howell (Sheriff); 17 Charles McArthur (EMS); 18 Robert Sampson (EMS) and Joy Nolan (Public Works); 20 Deborah Starr (DSS); 21 Myra McGill (DSS); 22 Harold Batchelor (Sheriff); 23 James Jacobs and Charlotte Gibson (DSS) and Tina Grubbs (EMS); 27 Larry Herring (Health); 28 Janna Wegner (Elections Board), Carolyn Isbell (DSS) and Betsey Ellerbe (Health); 30 Jennifer Goff (DSS) and Michealle Reece (Health).

Spam filters help curb obscene emails

Obscene emails and spam are an unfortunate consequence of email. As trash emails come in we report them to host server Schoollink. We are as protected from this trash as well as possible without hosting the email server internally. We do not have the capacity to do this at this time. Schoollink has a spam filter running on its email servers.

Since the County has a public domain, scotlandcounty.org is a magnet for trash emails. This is why you probably get more at work than you do at home. It is easy for a programmer to write viruses to turn computers into spam broadcasters. It is also easy to ghost the email senders making it impossible to stop all spam.

It is unfortunate, but everyone must use common sense when going through their volumes of daily emails. If you think it is trash, it is. If it is not a clear business purpose, it is probably not for you.



Festival continues to please

The annual John Blue Cotton Festival — as it has every year — continued to please visitors with entertainment, crafts, foods and a look back at bygone days. Pictured, clockwise, a Peerless steam tractor engine, a view from the back door of the Shaw cabin, mums for sale, the Cotton Blossom Railroad, visitors tour the John Blue House, dance troops are among the entertainment, a candlemaking demonstration.

I-74 proposal discussed

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Two very preliminary alternatives have been suggested. One preliminary plan would be to upgrade the existing road to interstate standards with fully controlled access. The other proposal would include construction of a portion of the project on a new location to bypass existing communities.

The route of the new location has not been mapped out. No funding has yet been earmarked for the I-74 extension project.

Citizens also had opportunity to show DOT where cemeteries and historic sites were along US 74 and to voice opinions about the prospect of an interstate going through their community.

Once funding is available, the project could take from seven to 10 years to complete, with the bypass being the more expensive and requiring more time to complete.

State award for Freeman

Cooperative Extension Secretary Annie C. Freeman received an Award of Excellence for Special Leadership during the State meeting of the NC Cooperative Extension Secretaries Association.



Freeman was honored for her outstanding contributions to Cooperative Extension through innovative office management; enhancement of the organization's image through positive interaction with other Extension personnel across the district and State, private and government agencies and other clientele; flexibility; exceptional customer service; and a high degree of professionalism.

Comments, suggestions and story ideas are welcome. Contact 277-3191 or akurtzman@scotlandcounty.org.

A speedy recovery to **Lisa Locklear**, Health Department. ❀ **Scotland County** was recognized with the Outstanding Achievement



Award from the United Way. The award is given to companies or individuals who make at least a 15 percent increase in pledges over the previous year. ❀ Congratulations to **Jannett Lamourt Garcia**, Health Department, on the October 5 birth of daughter Cynthia Johanna Garcia. ❀ Best wishes to **Jenny Church**, DSS, on her September 9 marriage to John Valdaliso, a Bennettsville Police Officer. ❀ Tyler Lyn Chavis, son of **Kimberly McLamb**, Health Department, is featured in the November 2006 issue of the national magazine *RC Drivers*. A sixth grader at Union Elementary School in Robeson County, Tyler's photo was taken at a competition in Florence, SC. He has been racing RC cars for two years. ❀ In EMS news, **Roylin Hammond, Mike Edge, Tommy Hatcher, Dontaé Roland, June Hunt, and Tracie Patterson** attended the annual Emergency Medicine Today Conference in Greensboro sponsored of the NC Office of Emergency Services. Congratulations to **Jessica Haworth** on her certification as an Emergency Medical Dispatcher (EMD). **Pat Lathrop's** granddaughter, Jordan Sandlin, was a contestant in the 2007 Miss NC Teen USA pageant in High Point. Contestants were judged on personal interviews, swimsuit and evening gown competition.

Our sympathies to Commissioner **John Alford** on the death of his brother and to **Rogena Deese**, Juvenile Services, on the death of her son, Joshua, while serving in Iraq, and to Deputy Register **Pat Brown** on the October 25 death of her mother, Novella Morrison.

Introductions & transitions

Welcome to those individuals who joined Scotland County departments since August 16, 2006: **Reginald Franklin**, EMS and **Holly Storey**, part-time with EMS; **Rebecca Snyder**, Health; **Charles Ellerbee**, Public Buildings; **Yolanda Alford**, DSS; **Faye Connelly**, temporary with Public Buildings; and **Felisa McKeithan**, part-time with Transportation.