

Scotland County

Monthly



OCTOBER 2007

A newsletter for Scotland County employees

Second transportation route begins

Stops along the Red Route

1. WalMart
2. Big Lots
3. Fred's
4. Biggs St./Ivory St.
5. Biggs St./Wilson St.
6. Piggly Wiggly
7. Rob's Convenience
8. Fifth Street
9. Duncan St./Produce Market Rd.
10. Cliffdale St./Produce Market Rd.
11. Purcell St./Produce Market Rd.
12. Pinto Place
13. Highland Village
14. Gill St./Main St.
15. Main St./Aberdeen Rd.
16. Nic's Pik Kwick
17. Main St./Roper St.
18. Medicine Shoppe
19. Ashville St.
20. Wilmington St./Raleigh St.
21. Scotland Manor
22. Pinewood Apartments
23. DSS

requests from people who live along the proposed second route — also known as the red route — to provide transportation.”

Passengers pay \$1 to use the transportation. The bus travels a continuous loop throughout the day. It takes an hour to travel the loop.

“Someone could get on at their residence, get off at a shopping center and in an hour, the transportation van would pick them up and take them back home,” explained Hammond.

He added, “The \$1 fee does not support the program but it gives the riders an ownership in what they are doing.”

“This is \$1 a day. Passengers can get on and get off as much as they want, and it's still only \$1,” Hammond said. “We want to enhance ridership and provide transportation rather than try to make it a money maker.”

The Rural General Public (RGP) transportation service will be expanded to a second route November 1.

A second full-time driver was hired to operate the new route. An existing vehicle from the Scotland Area Transit System fleet will be used.

The expansion and hiring of the full-time driver is funded entirely by Department of Transportation RGP monies.

The second route complements an existing 12.5-mile transportation loop around Laurinburg that runs Monday through Friday from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. and makes 30 stops. It services 900 people a month.

EMS Director Roylin Hammond said, “That might not seem like a lot of people, but that's providing transportation to a population that would not have access to transportation.”

The new route also will run in a continuous loop Monday through Friday from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. and make 23 stops.

Hammond added, “We've had

County, City plan to hire economic developer

The County Commissioners and Laurinburg City Council continue to hammer out details, which would involve the hiring of a shared economic development director.

Talks about hiring an economic development position began soon after Chamber of Commerce President Jim Frank Henderson last month announced his plans to retire in the near future.

The economic development director would focus on industrial and big-box retail recruitment, which would create jobs and improve the County's tax base.

Board of Commissioners Chairman J.D. Willis said the idea of hiring an economic development professional has been discussed by County officials on occasion over the past 10 years.

Willis said the concept is not new and many counties, including those closest to Scotland County, have already hired their own economic development executives.

The position would report to an advisory board made up of three County Commissioners and two City Council Members. The City and County Managers and a Chamber of Commerce representative would serve as non-voting members. Salary for the position would be shared by the County and the City.

The role of the Chamber of Commerce will be discussed at a November 8 meeting with the City, County and Chamber boards.

Leadership Scotland visits



Interim County Manager/Finance Officer Kevin Patterson, right, and City Manager Craig Honeycutt, center, discuss joint County and City projects with the Leadership Scotland 2007 class. Subjects discussed included industrial and retail recruitment, work force development, the Richmond Community College building project, the future of I-74 and the affect current drought conditions have on the County.

County Manager search extended

The Board of Commissioners agreed to readvertise the County Manager position.

Deadline for applications was extended to November 15.

Meanwhile, Kevin Patterson continues to serve as Interim County Manager/Finance Officer responsible for the administrative functions.

County Engineer Jim Blackwell was appointed to assist Patterson and oversee all the County's capital projects in the interim.

Former County Manager John Crumpton left June 30 to assume the Manager job in Lee County.

United Way contributions support agencies in your community

by Susan Butler, Human Resources

It's time again for Scotland County's Annual United Way Campaign. The 2007 campaign runs through November 15.

By now you have received United Way brochures from your department head or designee. Please let me know if you need additional brochures.

The brochure lists the different agencies supported by United Way. The contribution card is attached to the brochure.

This year's communitywide goal is \$280,000, which is less than the goal of previous years.

If you wish to participate in the campaign, you may make a one-time contribution or do monthly payroll deductions. Please list your name and address on the card, choose your preferred method of giving and return to your department head or designated person as soon as possible.

If payroll deduction is your choice, deductions will begin with the January 2008 payroll.

Each person who gives their "Fair Share" will receive a gift. Fair Share is one hour's rate of pay per month.

If a department has 100% participation, it will be eligible for a choice of a pizza lunch or an afternoon ice cream social. 100% participation will be defined as an average contribution rate per employee of at least \$5 per month.

Other departments may offer their own internal incentives.

Our contributions for the past five years are as follows: 2002, \$13,493; 2003, \$11,991; 2004, \$9,576; 2005, \$4,639; 2006, \$5,171.

As you can see, our totals have declined dramatically since 2002.

Most agencies listed in the brochure are ones that County employees have direct contact with in some capacity.

Through the United Way your contributions are spread across a broad spectrum of agencies that benefit **our** community.

Also, if you choose to designate your gift to a particular agency, you may do so if the gift is at least \$20. The contributions are tax deductible.

"No gift is too small. When combined with the gifts of others, great things can be accomplished." Thank you.

Cast your vote November 6

Submitted by Jerry Johnson, Elections

Registered voters of Laurinburg, East Laurinburg, Gibson and Wagram are encouraged to vote November 6. When the polls open November 6, every eligible citizen over the age of 18 will be able to cast a vote.

One of the most critical ways that individuals can influence governmental decision-making is through voting, a formal expression of preference for a candidate for office or for a proposed resolution of an issue.

Voting generally takes place in the context of a large-scale national or regional election; however, local and small-scale community elections can be just as critical to individual participation in government.

Abraham Lincoln best described democracy as "government of the people, by the people, and for the people." For that government to be "by the people," however, requires that the people decide who shall be their leaders.

Without free and fair elections, there can be no democratic society, and without that constant accountability of government officials to the electorate, there can, in fact, be no assurance of any other rights. The right to vote, therefore, is not only an important individual liberty; it is also a foundation stone of free government.

Healthy Carolinians gets recertification award

Scotland County Healthy Carolinians was awarded its second recertification during the October 12 Annual Healthy Carolinians Conference in Greensboro.

In addition, Scotland County Healthy Carolinians was awarded the William G. Anlyan Award for the Distinguished Healthy Carolinians Partnership Award.

The award acknowledges a Healthy Carolinians partnership that is distinguished through the community work it has accomplished. The award is presented to a partnership that demonstrated outstanding outcomes and accomplishments.

"Congratulations to the Scotland County Healthy Carolinians and all the volunteers and collaborating agencies who made this accomplishment happen," said Kathie Cox, Healthy Carolinians Coordinator.

Cox also credited the Health Department and its continued support of Healthy Carolinians for a successful recertification.

the Birthday list for November

2 Roylin Hammond (EMS), James Austin and Carol McCall (DSS) and Mary McCallum and David Locklear (Sheriff); **3** Wanda Sheppard (Tax); **4** Teresa Eddins (Register of Deeds); **5** Lynn Poe (Inspections); **6** Adam Sessoms and Richard Best (Sheriff) and Ernest Stephens (Inspections); **8** Brian Lowry (Health); **10** Evelyn Thomas (DSS Board); **11** Dr. Paul Fuchs and Dr. Joey Harris (Health Board); **12** Wayne Gay (Sheriff) and Judy Dubois (DSS); **14** Kelvin Howell (Sheriff); **16** Ronald Jones (Recreation Complex); **17** Randy McArthur (EMS); **18** Ronald Sampson (EMS) and Joy Nolan (Public Works); **19** Angela Townsend (DSS); **20** Deborah Starr (DSS); **22** Jennetta Rainer (Recreation Complex); **23** James Jacobs (DSS Board) and Shep Jones (Sheriff); **25** Velma McNeill (Recreation Complex); **27** Larry Herring (Health); **28** Janna Wegner (Elections Board), Carolyn Isbell (DSS) and Betsey Ellerbe (Health); **30** Scott Norton (Sheriff), Jennifer Goff (DSS) and Michealle Reece (Health).

22 take ServSafe seminar

22 area restaurant owners and food service employees completed a six-day ServSafe® seminar sponsored by Cooperative Extension and the County's Environmental Health Department.

The ServSafe® Serving Safe Food seminar trains, tests and certifies food service employees in critical food safety practices. Attendees also learn techniques for implementing effective food safety training in their own operations.

ServSafe® Certified Instructor and 4-H Agent Sharon English was one of six instructors for the seminar. "This is definitely a team approach," English said.

Others on the instruction team included two Richmond County Environmental Health Specialists, a

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Oban exchange program a study of best practices

It was a hectic two weeks for Oban Constable Jeremy Moore.

He traveled North Carolina from the mountains to Myrtle Beach, spent a day at the State Fair in Raleigh, and observed the operations of juvenile court, the Sheriff's, Police and Fire departments, County Jail, Scotland High School and SBI.

Moore stayed with Deputy Larry Tunstall and his family during the exchange program Laurinburg has with its Sister City Oban.

Tunstall, in turn, spent two weeks in Oban with Moore and his family several months ago.

Reserved for high school students up until this year, the exchange of law enforcement personnel was the first of its kind since the program's inception in 1993.

"I have a pretty good idea how the legal system works here," Moore said. "Our laws are very similar."

Moore added, "We have the same amount of crime, but it's a different type of crime. We don't have crack cocaine in Oban, thankfully. We hope it never does come. We do have a small problem with heroine."

"What I have to deal with day to day is juvenile crime," said Moore.

"It is fantastic for me to see how you deal with juvenile offenses in this country."

Moore kept a journal and said he hoped to implement in Oban the best practices being carried out in Scotland County.

Moore was impressed with the lobby guard at the high school, a visual electronic device that allows the school to keep track of who is coming and going.

"It's important to look after our children, to make sure the people who are not supposed to be in the school are not in the school. That is one of several things I will be looking at when I get back."

He added, "The downside between your high school and our high school is all our kids wear uniforms. I can walk into our high school and tell at a glance who is meant to be there and who should not be there. I walked into Scotland High School, and I couldn't tell who were the teachers and who were the students."

Moore said the Fire Department was impressive. "I was very jealous. The level of equipment they have is far better than ours. We have one truck with all equipment on it rather than three specialized trucks. You have more and better specialized equipment. We have that sort of equipment in the big cities but not in the rural areas."

Most memorable for Moore is how the community received him with open arms. And for that, he is grateful. "I enjoyed the hospitality here. There is a sense of decency. It's a way of life here that is being preserved well."

Post Scripts

Congratulations to **Roylin Hammond**, EMS, on the September 26 birth of grandson Ethan David Wright. Grandmother is Laurinburg City Clerk Dee Hammond. ☼ Farrah Sheppard, daughter of **Wanda Sheppard**, Tax, married Brian Foshay October 13. ☼ Celebrating 14 years of employment with EMS is **Mac Tucker**. ☼ **Nancy Hughes**, Tax, was awarded the designation of Senior Mapper at the NC Property Mappers Association Fall Conference in October. To receive certification one must be certified a Mapper for not less than two years, taken and received a passing score on the Fundamentals of Listing and Assessing at the School of Government and passed an advanced examination on mapping prepared by the Certification Board from NCPMA. **Mary Freeman**, Tax, attended the conference along with Hughes.

Our condolences to **Hyder Massey**, Public Buildings, on the death of his father-in-law, and to **Joy Nolan**, Public Works, on the death of her father.

Drought recovery a focus

by **Randy Wood**, Area Livestock Agent

The drought has left its mark on many areas of the County. Lawns, forests and recreational fields all bear evidence of the dry summer.

Agriculture is hardest hit. Livestock farmers have the lengthiest burden to bear as they face a long winter trying to feed their animals. The summer hay crop that all livestock operations depend on for winter feed has been devastated by the drought.

Cooperative Extension Service has been working with area livestock farmers to prepare for the long winter.

The Extension worked to help farmers beat the drought by recently hosting a cattle meeting that offered some answers to questions and concerns about trying to recover from the drought.

Several programs covered topics on feeding by-products to cattle, protein/energy supplementation for lactating beef cows and using winter annuals as a feed source.

An educational program was developed to teach farmers the pros and cons of using alternative feeds as a replacement for hay.

Corn stubble, soybeans and cotton residue are some examples of alternative feeds. Assistance and information was provided to farmers to help locate and harvest these non-traditional feed sources.

Group Enrollment meetings set

Group Enrollment Sessions will be held November 27 to 29. Sessions will be mandatory because Mark III is adding a benefit to the Cafeteria Benefits Plan.

In addition to the Health Care and Dependent Care Reimbursement Accounts, AFLAC Accident Plan, Assurity Cancer Plan, Superior Vision Plan and Standard Short-Term Disability Plan, employees will have the option to enroll in the Texas Life Whole Life Insurance Plan with a guarantee issue. Dental changes may also be made during this open enrollment period.

The group sessions schedule is as follows: Administration Building Conference Room, Tuesday, November 27 and Thursday, November 29, 9 a.m., 10:30 a.m., and 1:30 p.m.; Sheriff's Conference Room: Tuesday, November 27, 4, 5, 6 and 7 p.m.; and Commissioners Chamber, Wednesday, November 28, 9 a.m., 10:30 a.m., 1:30 p.m. and 3 p.m.



Scotland County Deputy Larry Tunstall, left, and Constable Jeremy Moore forged a friendship through an exchange program.

EMStatistics

EMS Report for September:

Responded to 396 Medical/Trauma calls
Treated 44 total traffic accident patients
Administered 91 wellness/blood pressure checks
Sold 10 blue address signs

911 Report Highlights:

379 EMS
276 Sheriff's Department
254 Laurinburg Police Department
44 Fire Department
512 hang-up calls
66 wrong numbers
25 open line calls
1,136 cellular calls

2,102 total calls to 911

Top five complaints for EMS Response

60 sick person (specific diagnosis)
44 traffic accidents
39 breathing problems
37 transfer/interfacility/ palliative care
35 falls/back injuries (traumatic)

Weather Observations (EMS Recordings)

Temp (high) 97 on 9/10, 11

Temp (low) 53 on 9/30

Wind (mph) 22 on 9/11

Rainfall (inches) .07 on 9/15

Compiled by Tommy Hatcher

Student interns get hands-on studies

When it comes to making decisions about the future, there are students who get the chance to think outside the box — the Scotland High School box, that is.

Thanks to an internship program offered by the High School, students get to experience areas that interest them first-hand and on-site.

Two seniors, Sommer Rushing and Chris Jones, are interning with Scotland County's IT Department.

"This experience is so much better than sitting in a classroom," Rushing explained.

Rushing and Jones are halfway through a 14-week internship with the County where nearly 300 employees spread across a half dozen locations rely on the IT Department to keep their computers problem-free.

Weekdays from 2 p.m. to 3:15 p.m. Jones and Rushing can be seen with Network Administrator Tenita Bullard and IT Specialist Gaylord Hunt responding to troubleshooting requests from various County departments.

"We know a lot more about the intranet now," said Rushing. The two students are developing an intranet for use by Social Services.

Jones added that they also worked on some projects in the Tax Office. In down time, Jones and Rushing upgrade their computers.

Rushing is taking classes at Richmond Community College to supplement her high school courses. She plans to continue her studies with University of Phoenix On-line. Jones plans to study computer programming at UNC-Wilmington.



Chris Jones, left, Sommer Rushing, center, shadow IT Administrator Tenita Bullard for on-the-job experience.

Scotland Heat 12U wins Make-A-Wish tournament



Scotland Heat, Scotland County's Girl's Softball Team ages 12 and under, grabbed the win in their age group during the Make-A-Wish Tournament in Florence, SC. Scotland Heat ages 10 and under competed as well as Carolina Angels ages 16 and under, coached by Thomas Milligan, Inspections.

Pictured is the winning team, left to right, front row, Bat Girl Ally Harris and Lacey Leary; second row, Katie McLaurin, Kayla Dees, Breanna Harris, Megan Quick and Steely Russell; third row, Bailey Jacobs (daughter of Scotty Jacobs, Sheriff's Department), Paige Butler, Victoria Lisk, Jessica Bowen (daughter of Robert Bowen, Administration), Cheyanne Morgan, Faith Richardson; back row, Coaches Boyd McLaurin, Bobby Harris, Tippy Leary and Steve Richardson. Coach Norman Quick is not pictured.

ServSafe certification a plus

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Regional Environmental Health Specialist and two additional Cooperative Extension staff from Moore and Bladen County.

ServSafe® Serving Safe Food is a popular seminar based on the nationally recognized course provided by the Educational Foundation of the National Restaurant Association.

Seminar attendees are trained and tested on potentially hazardous food and common food handling errors, Hazard Analysis Critical Control Point (HACCP) system, proper receiving and storage and cleaning and sanitizing procedures.

The final day of the seminar is reserved for review and a 90-question certification exam.

English said, "The seminar is not required, but it is encouraged. Restaurants can display the certification. It lets consumers know that a restaurant cares enough that their staff has safe food handling practices."

An extra bonus for successful completion of the ServSafe® course is the awarding of two points on the quarterly inspection form to increase the food service grade of the business.



Sharon English was one of six instructors at the ServSafe® seminar.