



SCOTLAND COUNTY MONTHLY

SEPTEMBER 2001

A newsletter for Scotland County employees

United Way kicks off its annual campaign

With a goal of \$476, 266, United Way kicked off its 2001 Campaign. Scotland County is prepared to do its part in contributing to the campaign, boosted by the incentive of last year's Fair Share Program.

Employees who choose to give to the United Way through Fair Share receive a day off on their birthday. With Fair Share, one hour's wage per month is deducted from the employee's paycheck.

see *United*, page 4



United Way of Scotland County

Cooperative Extension hosts dinner, presents 2001 annual report



Left to right, Board of Commissioners Chairman David Burns and Commissioner Jim "Sunbeam" Sutherland speak with Tequisa McPhatter, 4-H County Council President; Francine McLaurin, Extension Advisory Council member; Cathy Graham, Extension Director; and Brenda Gilbert, Extension Advisory Council Chair.

Parents as Teachers (PAT) was among the successes reported by Cooperative Extension for the year 2001. Although PAT has been around since the early 70s, it is in its first year providing service to Scotland County parents with children under age 5.

Embracing the vision that all parents will be the child's best first teacher, the area PAT successfully reached 27 families in its first year through home visits, screenings, group meetings, resource network and story time.

During a dinner, hosted by the Extension and catered by Donna Faye Barton from the Expanded Food and Nutrition Program, the

see *Dinner*, page 3

December payroll checks will be issued after Christmas

December payroll checks will be issued on December 31, as has been the previous practice, the last working day prior to Christmas.

As the Finance staff makes the transition to its new payroll software package, all data for each employee must be manually entered into the new system. The new payroll software will be implemented January 1, 2002.

Employees need to prepare now by setting aside adequate funds for their holiday shopping.

Longevity payments for those staff members with a minimum of five years County service will be included with the November paycheck, which is consistent with past practice.

Since August, Payroll Technician Nancy Bostick has been sorting through and organizing all data for transferral to the new system. That also means inputting by hand data from the old system into the new software program.

That, coupled with a short processing time this year, makes the issuance of early December payroll checks nearly impossible.

"Departments generally turn their time sheets in on the 18th through the 20th," explained Finance Officer Charles Williams. "If checks are to be issued early, the checks would need to be printed by December 19th, and this would not allow enough time for processing."

Williams said that the majority of department heads have supported the County's issuance of paychecks after the Christmas holiday.

Williams also sees the change as a way to prevent a financial struggle for employees. "December payroll checks issued before the holiday imposes a hardship on some employees because of the longer interval before the next pay period."

PAYROLL TIMELINE

December 18-20

Timesheets due

December 21-22

Timesheet data verified

December 26

Credit Union checks processed

December 27

Checks sorted by department, printed and signed

December 28-31

Federal withholding reports due, noon, December 31

THERE'S MORE INSIDE

Courthouse security page 2

Eagle Scout project page 3

Notes from the County Manager

the Birthday list

October

Greetings! The school "floor," job losses, industry closings, property taxes, secondary road improvements, the purchase of fire apparatus were just a handful of issues the Board of Commissioners discussed at its regular meeting. All were considered important and worthy of serious consideration.

That was Monday, September 10.

In less than 12 hours, the world was stunned by a devastatingly tragic event, as terrorists waged a horrific attack on the World Trade Center and the Pentagon.

Thousands of people now missing are presumed dead. The attack occurred on U.S. soil, but the World Trade Center represented international interests in commerce, technology and investment.

The World Trade Center, aptly named, was the global home to thriving, entrepreneurial concerns, international in scope. When the Towers collapsed, citizens from 62 countries were on the list of the missing. The international community felt the loss.

Many feel a sense of profound sorrow; helpless and vulnerable. For others, rage boils just below the surface. Demands for retribution, swift and deadly, have been made.

Destruction and devastation occurred on U.S. soil, and in one hour in one day, the people of the world — the human race — not confined to religion, race, nationality or culture, suffered the loss.

When the World Trade Towers collapsed, nations united and pledged mutual support. This is a time for exercising our faith, human compassion and understanding.

Scotland County may be miles away from the tragic sites, but support of the recovery effort is as close as our local Red Cross.

Give blood. Make cash donations. Raise the American flag.

Take care of yourself, physically and otherwise. Spend more time with your family. Stay in touch with friends. Settle differences peacefully. Volunteer.

Help others. Locally, support the United Way as it launches its annual campaign.

The creation of a Human Relations Commission will be one of the issues up for discussion as the Board of Commissioners meets October 1 for its regularly scheduled meeting.

Creation of the Commission, a joint effort between the governing bodies of the City and the County, has been a priority for Vice Chair Nancy Shelley, Commissioner Clint Willis and Laurinburg Mayor Ann Slaughter for some time now.

The objective of the Human Relations Commission, as outlined in the proposed Ordinance: "To promote peace, understanding, respect, good will and harmony among citizens."

During the meeting, issues once debated, still will be debated. Decisions will be made once all interested parties have had their say. It may seem like business as usual, but the human differences, in a larger context, will be measurably smaller.



Scott Sauer

2 Michael Sharpe (EMS); **3** Shannon Newton (Parks And Recreation) and Kay McMillan (DSS); **4** Patsy Whitehead (Health); **6** Clint Willis (Commissioner); **8** Robert Bowen (Administration); **11** Roy Chavis (EMS); **12** Raymond Esteves (DSS) and Cassandra Jordon (Health); **13** Tosha Smiling (DSS); **17** Jean Whitehead (Register of Deeds) and Rebecca Blue (Health Board); **18** Teresa Wilcox (Health) and Ed Johnston (County Attorney); **19** Sylvia Hughes (Health) and Tessie Cousar (Health); **20** Ramona Oxendine (DSS); **21** Frances McLean (DSS); **22** Rachel Beach (Inspections); **23** Margaret Nicholson (Health), Cory Baldwin (EMS), Teddy Locklear (Health) and Josephine Williams (Jail); **25** Debra Maske (Health); **26** Daniel Sprouse (Health) and Angela Hunt (Jail); **28** Vicki Locklear (Tax) and Clyde Kepley (Tax); **29** Jonathan Bell (EMS) and Clarence Milligan (Inspections); **31** Antonia Rainer (DSS), Thomas Hatcher (EMS) and David Ratley III (EMS).

Introductions & transitions

Debbie Clifton has been named Associate Director of Scotland Center, part of Southeastern Regional Mental Health, Developmental Disabilities and Substance Abuse Services. Clifton earned her B.A. from Penn State in general arts and sciences and her Master's in science education from eastern Illinois University. A licensed professional counselor, she previously worked at the Sandhills Center and at



Debbie Clifton

Tri-County Mental Health in Bennettsville and Dillon.

Elsewhere, **Raymond Esteves** joined Scotland County DSS in August.

Courthouse security operating smoothly

Security measures at the Courthouse have been running smoothly since they went into effect, September 4. There have been few incidents as a result, according to Superior Court Judge B. Craig Ellis.

Ellis added that those who visit or work in the Courthouse have been understanding and cooperative. Those who have been issued Scotland County IDs may alert one of the security officials if they wish to bypass the Magnascanner.

Replacement IDs are available in the County Manager's Office for a charge of \$2 for County and Courthouse employees and \$5 for those issued the badges by permission.

Scout creates recycling center web pages

The presentation of web pages featuring Scotland County Recycling Centers brought praise from Commissioners and applause from citizens attending the regular government meeting.

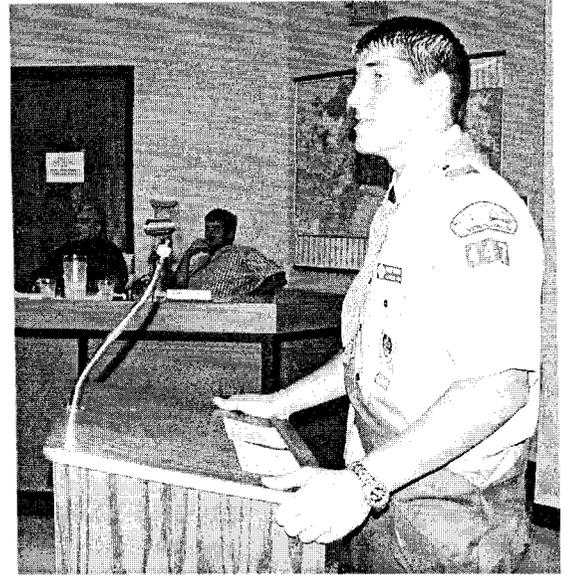
The positive reaction was particularly gratifying to Boy Scout Bradley Kimbrell, who spent three years developing the web pages as part of his Eagle Scout project.

Kimbrell, son of Mike (Sheriff's Department) and Beckie Kimbrell (DSS), selected recycling as his Eagle Scout project to inform and instruct the public on what they can do to be environmentally aware.

Linked from the main page are pages that feature Recycling FAQ (frequently asked questions) and a list of 25 different ways to help save the planet. Kimbrell pointed to one of them, "Ride your bike instead of a car." He said, "I know how difficult that one is. I have a car myself."

A map page shows locations of the six recycling centers in the County and directions to those centers. Another page features a photo gallery of the centers and people using them. The site offers an overview of the entire recycling system in Scotland County. Kimbrell said it is likely his pages will be linked to the Scotland County web site in the near future.

The Board of Commissioners thanked Kimbrell for his hard work and praised him for his responsible citizenship and appreciation and support of the community.



Bradley Kimbrell took center stage at the Commissioner's meeting, September 10, to discuss the web pages he developed on recycling.

Extension's annual report presented at dinner event

continued from page 1

more than 30 guests heard similar reports from other Cooperative Extension areas.

The following is a highlight of reports presented:

Family and Consumer Education: 120 teens participated in Baby Think it Over.

Expanded Food and Nutrition Program: The 146 families enrolled learned about food resource management, nutrition and food safety practices.

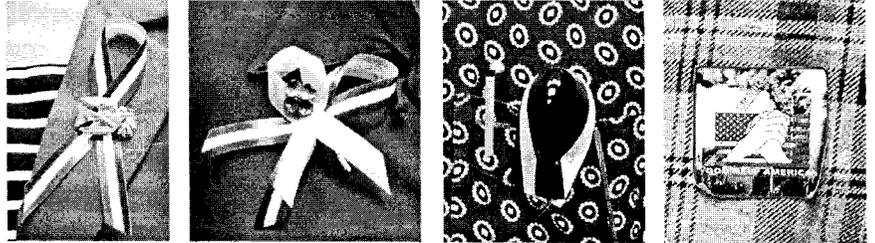
4-H: 1,105 youth were involved in 4-H through community clubs, after school clubs, special interest programs and project clubs.

Teen Court: Of the 29 youth admitted last fiscal year, 97% had a reduction in court involvement, while 100% had no further school discipline referral.

4-H School Age Care: 90 hours of trainings and workshops were held for 100 child care providers, which impacts 1,500 youth and 90% of the licensed care centers in the area. With County-operated sites in Laurel Hill, Laurinburg and Wagram, School Age Care served 200 youth during open teacher workdays, holidays and summer breaks.

Agriculture Program: 5 growers converted tobacco barns to produce low nitrosomine tobacco; collaboration with a pesticide dealer and NCDA helped to properly dispose of 173 unwanted pesticides; in collaboration with Soil and Water Conservation district, Environmental Awareness Week was sponsored.

Guests also heard reports on the County's ranking in poultry production and revenues, and from the Extension and Community Association on reading volunteers and rest home visits.



Employees demonstrate their patriotism

In a demonstration of patriotism, County employees adorned lapels and shirts with ribbons signifying support of the United States and honoring those who lost their lives in the September 11 terrorist attack on the World Trade Center, the Pentagon and hijacked plane that crashed in Pennsylvania.

Locally, the Scotland County Chapter of the American Red Cross is scheduling emergency blood drives. The next drive is set for October 9 at the First United Methodist Church, 2 to 6:30 p.m.

Monetary donations also are needed to help the victims and families of these tragedies. Cash donations accepted through the Red Cross may be designated for disaster relief in general or for disaster relief in one or the other particular city.

Donations of food and clothing cannot be accepted at this time as there is no way of distributing these items. Cash donations allow relief agencies to identify items and supplies to purchase that are critical in support of the recovery effort, victims and families of victims.

18th Annual John Blue Cotton Festival



**October 13: 10 a.m. - 5 p.m.
October 14: 9 a.m. - 4 p.m.**

**Featuring entertainment,
exhibitors, crafts and food.**

Admission: \$2.

PostScripts

Congratulations to Environmental Health Specialist **Brian Lowry** and his wife, Jamie, on the August 18 birth of their son, Aaron Kent; and to Probation Officer **James Pegues** and his wife, Jennifer, on the August 16 birth of their son, Jamear. ♦ **Scotland County Healthy Carolinians** will receive its certification, October 12, from the State Healthy Carolinians office at the Annual Health Carolinians Conference in Greensboro. ♦ The public is invited to attend the **Annual Child Health Fair**, October 6, hosted by the Scotland County Health Department. Located at the agency on West Boulevard, fair time is 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. Children will receive a variety of healthy screenings and developmental tests. ♦ Congratulations are extended to the Health Department's new grandmothers, Billing Coordinator **Violet Moore** and Maternal Health Coordinator **Kitty Johnson**. ♦ Social Worker **Rachel Pegues** was named Health Department Employee of the Month for August. Pegues has been with the agency for more than 12 years. ♦ The efforts of **Health Department staff** during the September 7 to 8 Relay for Life helped raise more than \$4,300. ♦ Scotland County Fire Inspector **Thomas Milligan** received a letter of appreciation from Southern Hardwoods, Inc. Referencing Milligan's July 10 inspection of the company, James McClanathan, sawmill supervisor, wrote, "We appreciate your assistance in helping us make our plant as safe as possible. We have a strong, active and successful safety program in place and we intend to keep it that way." ♦ **Parks and Recreation** reported its best-ever football season as 400 players and 300 cheerleaders registered to participate. The number is a record high. ♦ It's official! The historic **A.D. Gibson store** is scheduled to be moved from its Sneads Grove location to the John Blue house property shortly after October's John Blue Festival. The relocation effort is made possible by the Scotland County Historic Properties Commission. ♦ Extension Community Association members **Peggy Troxell, Norma Jones, Peggy Nelson, Carolyn Roper, Mary Ella Ingram, Sara Evans, Ida Formolo, Ida Sanchez, Aliene Allen, Marjorie Sharpe and Barbara Williams** attended the Kitchens...and Moore Tour. The group, accompanied by Extension staffers **Cathy Graham and Sharon English**, toured Moore County homes, sampled food and received decorating ideas. ♦ Parent Educator **Rebecca Stricklen** received her 0-3 certification during the August 27 to 31 Parents as Teachers Training in Columbia, SC.



Old Laurel Hill Presbyterian Church, pictured, and the John Blue House were the sites for a small convention of vintage car enthusiasts. An estimated 30 individuals attended the event. Dressed in period clothing, the group later enjoyed homemade lemonade and a picnic lunch on the grounds of the John Blue House.

SCOTLAND COUNTY PARKS & RECREATION

OCTOBER ACTIVITIES

16: Senior Trip to North Carolina State Fair is \$13 and open to any person 55 or older. Trip includes transportation to and from Raleigh and free entrance to the fair.

23: The 30th Annual Cotton Bowl, hosted by Parks and Recreation, will be held at Legion Park.

ONGOING ACTIVITIES

Join fitness instructor Susan Smith at St. Andrews for Water Aerobics every Tuesday at 10 a.m. Open to persons 55 and better. Cost is \$2 per week.

IN SEARCH OF ...

Volunteer(s) familiar with step dancing to assist Parks and Recreation in organizing and developing after school classes. Contact Shannon Newton at 277-2587.

Fair Share an option in United Way gift

continued from page 1

Deductions are reflected in the January payroll.

Personnel Supervisor Susan Butler said 28 people last year made donations to United Way through Fair Share, up significantly from the previous

year. "Employees enjoyed the added bonus of getting their birthdays off," Butler explained.

Butler, who heads the County employee campaign, with the assistance of Lynn Poe from the County Manager's Office, is looking forward to a successful year. "The County far exceeded its 2000 goal and more than doubled the level of giving from 1999."

Although most funds raised through this campaign support service agencies in Scotland County, Butler pointed out that

United Way serves agencies that assist with tragedies on a national level. The campaign concludes November 30.

Records disposal schedule updated

A records and disposition schedule, issued in May by the Local Records Unit of the Government Records Branch, is available to County departments. The schedule provides information on records authorized to be destroyed or otherwise disposed of if they no longer have further use or value for official business, research or reference purposes after the specific retention periods. Copies are available. Contact Ann Kurtzman at ext. 3191.

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.