

SCOTLAND COUNTY MONTHLY

SEPTEMBER 2002

A newsletter for Scotland County employees

Assessment notices set for October mailing

By mid-October, Scotland County citizens will receive a notice in the mail that states what their property is worth on today's market. The notice is the result of revaluation, which affects tax value, not tax rate. Chris Ferriss understands first-hand how the two can be confused.

"Revaluation brings everything up to market value," Ferriss explained. "The idea is to equally assess everyone in a community because the market changes after so many years. As for the rate that assessed value will be taxed, only the governing body can determine that."

For the past two years Ferriss has taken the lead in conducting revaluation in Scotland County, a process that by law must be conducted every eight years. 1995 was the County's last revaluation year.

For example, commercial property near a recently opened bypass would increase in value while a downtown district might see no increase.

Likewise, recent trends show that residential areas located near water or on streets with the the least amount of traffic are more desirable and therefore bringing higher market values.

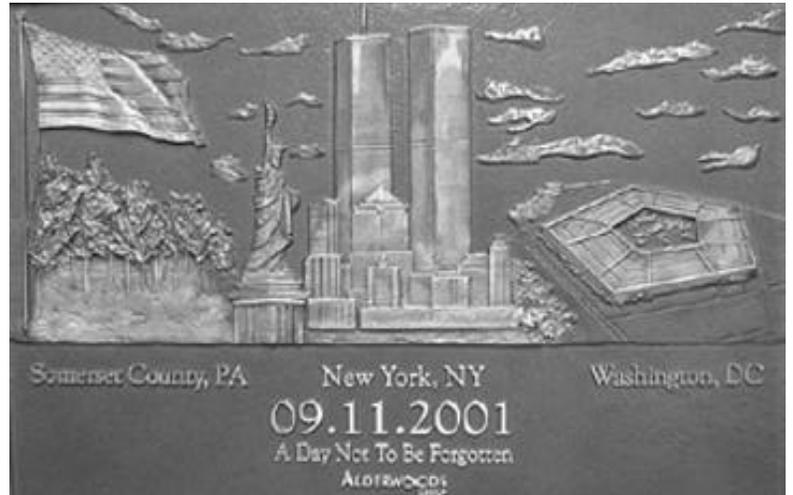
Construction details such as wood versus brick, square footage, structural soundness, flooring, the type of heating and air conditioning, the number of bedrooms and bathrooms, and additions or reductions to a structure all affect assessed value.

It's the job of the field lister to inspect a structure to verify that information based on the last revaluation is correct. The field lister then records any changes which have been made since the last revaluation.

Many citizens question how the revaluation process determines the number of bathrooms in a home. According to Ferriss, the system used in 1995 was based on the number of fixtures in a home, including all sinks, toilets, bathtubs, showers and hot water heaters.

The new system records the number of bathrooms. "That means the kitchen sink and the hot water heater would count as a half bathroom," Ferriss explained. "Nothing really has changed because the number of fixtures still remains the same. It would have no affect on the assessment."

see Revaluation, page 3



9-11 memorial plaque donated

A Memorial Plaque will serve as a permanent reminder of the September 11, 2001 tragedy when it is placed in front of the Courthouse. The plaque was offered as a gift to the citizens of Scotland County from Scotland Cemetery and its parent company, the Alderwoods Group, Inc. Plans are now underway to construct a cement upright structure in which to display the plaque.

Federal grant jumpstarts plans for comprehensive youth complex

A \$100,000 grant from the Department of Housing and Urban Development will provide the initial major funding in the development of a comprehensive youth complex. The grant will be used for site plans and architectural plans.

Located on county and donated land behind Scotland Place on Turnpike Road and the Scotland County Governmental Complex on West Boulevard, the youth complex would include a 45,000- to 50,000-square-foot community center, which would house an indoor soccer field, a roller-hockey rink, a multipurpose room, classrooms, locker rooms and offices. An indoor/outdoor pool, softball fields and soccer fields round out the complex.

Eventual construction of the \$5 million complex will occur in phases, the first of which will cost an estimated \$2.3 million.

see Complex, page 4

THERE'S MORE INSIDE

9-11 tragedy remembered page 3

Choose to Care the United Way page 4

Fundraiser helps 4-H restitution

Cooperative Extension's 4-H Restitution Program raised more than \$5,000 at its 4th Annual Restitution Golf Tournament August 22 at Scotch Meadows Country Club. Twelve captains chose four-man teams to participate in the tournament.

The 4-H Restitution Program gives juveniles an opportunity to monetarily repay victims of their crimes by performing community service hours at a designated worksite.

Juvenile participants are informed of the necessary hours they must complete to satisfy their restitution. Once their hours are completed, the victim is compensated for damages.

Computer Tips with Tenita Bullard



Here's how to restart Windows without rebooting.

1. In the Start Menu, click, Shutdown.
2. Check Restart.
3. As you click OK, hold down the Shift Key.
4. Continue holding down the Shift until you see the words, "Windows is now restarting."

This tip does not work for Windows Me but should work with 95, 98 and 2000.

**Board of Commissioners
meet 7 p.m., October 7
1405 West Boulevard**

Notes from the County Manager

Greetings. A couple of months ago, I outlined the highlights of our program of work for 2002-2003 and noted the upcoming municipal and county elections managed by our Board of Elections.

Today, I tip my hat to Ms. Judy Riggins, Director of Elections for Scotland County. As public servants, maintaining a strong democracy by assuring ethical and fair elections is our highest priority. After reviewing various media reports from around this region, I am again reminded why it is such a blessing to work for the County of Scotland.



Scott Sauer

Post Scripts

Terry Stanton, PALS; and **Jenny Church** and **Marcea Coble**, both of DSS are the UNC-Pembroke Scotland County Chapter officers for their alumni class. Coble is president while Stanton is vice president and Church serves as secretary-treasurer. ☒ The Health Department shares its news items. Congratulations to **Winnie Lail RN**, Employee of the Month for July and **Annie Locklear**, Healthcheck Coordinator, Employee of the Month for August. Welcome back to **Violet Moore, Margaret Nicholson** and **Robin Quick**. Condolences to **Tessie Cousar** in the death of her mother-in-law. Welcome to **Angela Moore RN** and **Jennifer Taylor**, Processing Assistant to the agency. Congratulations to **Cordella Walker** in the birth of her grandson. We wish **Mary Armstrong** a speedy recovery. Thanks to **Donna Deese** and **Barbara Mack** for coordinating our Relay for Life efforts. Look for upcoming information on our Senior Vaccination flu campaign that will begin in October. All county employees will be offered flu vaccine free of charge. The Board of Health is working on mosquito rules to protect the public against standing water that can become a breeding ground for mosquitos. The intent is to prevent mosquito born illnesses such as West Nile Virus. **Stephanie McDonald** will coordinate our pink ribbon campaign for October's National Breast Cancer Awareness Month. Ribbons are available by request. Call Stephanie at 277-2440. ☒ DSS will sponsor its first ever **Foster Cheer Project** that ensures all foster children in the care of DSS are not forgotten at Christmas. A silent auction November 5, 8:30 a.m. to 3 p.m. in the Commissioners Chambers, will help raise money for the purchase of Foster Cheer Christmas gifts. Everyone is invited. Call Katie Harris at 277-2525 ext. 358 for more information. ☒ Congratulations to Commissioner **Sunbeam Sutherland** and his wife, Marty, on the August 23 birth of granddaughter, McKenna James Sutherland. ☒ A **Bomb Threat Workshop** is scheduled from 9 a.m. to noon, October 2, at Avinger Auditorium on the St. Andrews campus. The workshop is designed for any staff who may receive an initial telephone threat and for any supervisory personnel who may have to take action to respond to the threat. Sponsored by Scotland County Emergency Management, the workshop is free. ☒ **Running Scared**, a health-oriented fitness that will run concurrently with the annual John Blue Festival, is scheduled for October 12. Proceeds from the walk, 5K and 10K run, will stay in Scotland County and benefit its organizers, the Red Cross, Laurinburg Jaycees and Child Care Directions. The race also includes a wheelchair division. To register or to request more information, contact the



**Walk/5K/10K/
Wheelchair Division**

Red Cross at 276-0600. ☒ Cooperative Extension employees and volunteers **Joan Wagner, Robert Wagner, Ozzie Adams, Hazel McPhatter, John McPhatter, Sybil Oxendine, Precious Byrd, William Byrd, Donna Barton, Mary Moore** and **Rebecca Stricklen** will attend the Rock Eagle 2002 Southern Region 4-H Volunteer Leader Forum October 3 to 6 in Georgia. In addition, Cooperative Extension recently held a succesful event where Extension families enjoyed a covered dish dinner and met the families of co-workers. **Staff Family Night** was an idea borne from a staff conference. ☒ **SCATS** will test run its routes five days a week through October, the result of requests by citizens to increase service. ☒ **The Library** hosted 237 children's programs last year, which served more than 6,000 children countywide.

9-11 tragedy remembered



Citizens gathered for A Day of Remembrance on the first anniversary of the September 11, 2001 tragedy.

Hosted by Scotland County and the City of Laurinburg, a crepe myrtle was planted at Hammond Park, site of the event, in memory of the victims and in honor of the survivors, rescue workers and members of the armed forces.

Retired Brigadier General Clint Willis, above, was one of several speakers.

Above left, top to bottom, Covington Street School students sing *America the Beautiful*. Laurinburg Police Chief Robert Malloy reads his original poem *The Badge*. The Rev. Terrence Williams and Willis break ground for the crepe myrtle. Citizens embrace after the ceremony.



Early Voting process has smooth test run

The Board of Elections had the opportunity to test a paperless early voting process using an electronic voting system.

Early voting spanned the few weeks prior to the September 10 primary election so registered voters could cast their ballots electronically without having to go to the polls.

It took the Board of Elections about 30 minutes to electronically tally the votes cast by 855 registered voters.

"On the average, it took about two minutes for people to vote electronically," said Board of Elections Chairman John Stewart.

Since the electronic voting equipment was available for a one-time trial run, the November election process will revert back to paper. Stewart said the the Board eventually hopes to purchase electronic equipment for early voting.



Top, citizens line up to vote early. Below, the lightweight equipment makes it easy for voters with disabilities.

the Birthday list for October

3 Shannon Newton (Parks and Recreation) and Katherine McMillan (DSS); **4** Patsy Whitehead (Health); **6** Clint Willis (Board of Commissioners); **8** Robert Bowen (Administration); **11** Roy Chavis, Jr. (EMS); **12** Raymond Esteves (DSS) and Otis McMillan (Health); **13** Grant William (EMS); **15** James Brigman (Solid Waste); **17** Jean Whitehead (Register of Deeds) and Rebecca Blue (Health); **18** Teresa Wilcox (Health); **19** Sylvia Hughes and Tessie Cousar (Health); **21** Frances McLean (DSS) and Clyde Smith, Jr. (Sheriff); **22** Rachel Beach (Inspections); **23** Corbett Baldwin (EMS), Teddy Locklear and Margaret Nicholson (Health), Josephine Williams (Jail) and Beverly Wranosky (DSS); **25** Deborah Maske (Health); **26** Angela Hunt (Sheriff) and Danny Sprouse (Health); **27** Lisa Grainger (Solid Waste); **28** Kep Kepley and Veronica Locklear (Tax); **29** Clarence Milligan (Inspections); **31** David Ratley and Tommy Hatcher (EMS) and Antonia Rainer (DSS).

Market value important in revaluation

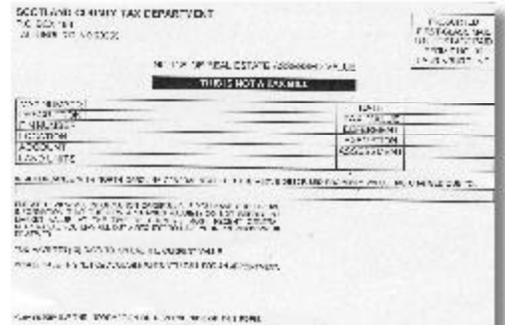
continued from page 1

He said, "If a bathroom has been added since 1995, that would make a difference." Ferriss prefers not to use percentages. "What matters is that the property is at market value based on recent sales (usually in the past four years) in a particular neighborhood."

Property owners who disagree with the assessment can complete the notification form and either mail it or hand deliver it to the revaluation office. The revaluation team will review properties in contention, neighborhood by neighborhood, around mid-November.

If there is an appeal, it's important for the property owner to do some research and gather facts, such as acquiring a home and/or land value from a certified appraiser, checking recent sales trends in the neighborhood or identifying changes to a home or property that might not have been recorded."

Ferriss advised. "Do your research, gather the facts, talk to your neighbors and verify the accuracy of your tax card, which is available at the Tax Office. If there is something wrong, we'll be glad to fix it."



Comparing information on the mailed Notice of Real Estate Assessed Value (above is a sample) with information on the Tax Card is encouraged. The Tax Card is available in the Tax Office for a fee of 25 cents.

County prepares for United Way Campaign

With the 2002 local United Way Campaign setting a conservative goal, the County intends to do likewise as it plans to match or slightly increase the more than \$13,000 it raised last year. The 2002 United Way Campaign is \$423,236, a little less than the \$476,266 goal in 2001.

County employees may once again take advantage of the successful Fair Share Program when considering a donation to United Way. Fair Share allows for one hour's wage per month deducted from the employee's paycheck. In exchange, participants get their birthday off.

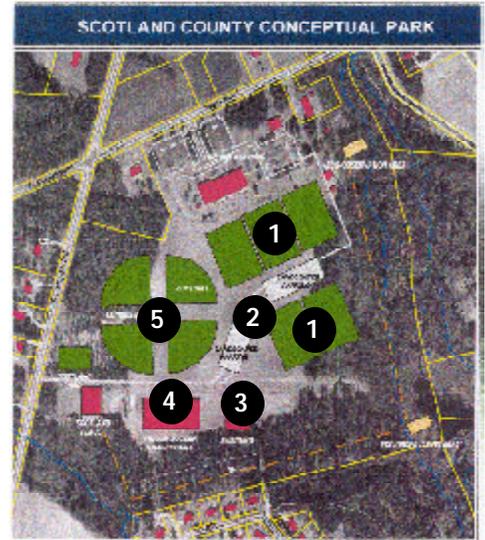
Those who "choose to care" through United Way support agencies that serve Scotland County.



HUD grant funds youth complex

continued from page 1

1. Soccer fields
2. Landscaped parking lots
3. Indoor/outdoor swimming pool
4. Indoor soccer and basketball facility
5. Softball fields with centrally located concession stand



Conceptual plans for the project were presented to the Board of Commissioners and to U.S. Rep. Robin Hayes, who helped secure the grant.

Becca Hughes, development director for the Scotland Memorial Foundation and head of the Youth Center Task Force, said there is significant need for a facility like this.

"There is currently no central location where youth can participate in sports programs," she said. "The proposed center would provide a central location for many ongoing programs and create opportunities for new programs that would not be possible without it."

Hughes indicated that the center would help strengthen the local economy by attracting youth and their families to the area for various sporting tournaments on a local and regional level.

Hughes, Parks and Recreation Director Shannon Newton, Bob Gordon of the Scotland County Stadium and Civic Center group, Laurinburg City Manager Joe Huffman, Scotland County Manager Scott Sauer and Christin Westphal helped prepare the application.

DSS exceeds Relay goal

The DSS-sponsored Rays of Light Relay for Life Team raised \$2,352.51, more than double its goal of \$1,000 to benefit cancer research. The team sold homemade suckers, vegetable soup and chili beans at its campsite and participated in the 24-hour relay event at Scotland High School's Pate Stadium September 13 to 14.

The team's fundraisers, which began in June, included a hot dog plate sale, breakfast sale, bake sale, silent auction, ice cream social and the raffle of a hand-crocheted afghan and a \$50 Wal-Mart gift card.

The 29 DSS employees on the Rays of Light Team were led by co-captains Towana Harrington, Tim Martin and Anne Laviner.

The team wishes to dedicate its hard work to fellow co-worker and cancer survivor Kaye McMillan.



Introductions & transitions

Welcome employees who joined County departments since July 16: **Heather Brock** and **Brenda Floyd**, part-time in EMS; **Christopher Bennett**, Jail; and **Wiley Luther**, temporary duty with the Sheriff.

New advisory board appointed

Developing a comprehensive recreation plan for the County is the goal of the newly appointed Parks and Recreation Advisory Board.

Those appointed by the Scotland County Commissioners to the Advisory Board include Chairman Becca Hughes, Vice Chairman June Brooks, Caesar Blue, Lloyd Hinson, Duncan McKay, Scott Miller and Nancy Shelley.

The Advisory Board will work with Parks and Recreation Director Shannon Newton. Members serve two-year terms and are appointed by the County Commissioners.

The Advisory Board will meet at 4 p.m. the second Thursday of each month at Scotland Place. A tour of all parks and recreation facilities and parks is scheduled for the October 10 meeting. Meetings are open to the public.

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.

VISIT THE 19TH ANNUAL
JOHN BLUE COTTON
FESTIVAL OCTOBER 12, 10
A.M. TO 5 P.M. AND OCTOBER
13, 10 A.M. TO 4 P.M.

