



SCOTLAND COUNTY MONTHLY

SEPTEMBER 2003

A newsletter for Scotland County employees

Program promotes affordable prescriptions

People not covered by any prescription drug program including Medicaid may be eligible for no cost or low cost prescriptions depending on income level.

The Medication Management and Access to Prescription Assistance (MMAPA) makes it possible for Scotland County residents.

More than 120 seniors mostly age 65 and older are enrolled so far. Scotland Place Seniors Program Coordinator Carol McCall said about 300 senior adults are eligible for the program.

McCall, Joan Walters, prescription assistance coordinator, and Burt Dean, a registered pharmacist, have been introducing the program to individuals during a series of meetings throughout the County.

Many clients are referred to the program through Senior Care. Once referred, Walters conducts a health and income assessment to determine eligibility. "Participating pharmaceutical companies base eligibility on level of need," Walters said.

see Prescription, page 4

SCATS adds more days

The Scotland County Area Transit System (SCATS) has expanded its run from three to five days a week. Results of the expansion have been dramatic, according to Transportation Coordinator Gracie Rettig.

"SCATS Transit is averaging 62 passengers a day," Rettig said. "That's more than double the amount of passengers from the three day a week schedule."

Rettig said the SCATS expanded run was launched as a result of requests on user comment surveys.

Although not yet known, higher visibility on the road and word of mouth could be the reason more passengers are using SCATS, Rettig said.

SCATS initiated a general public route two days a week in 2001. It later expanded to three days a week offering a selection of 25 stops around Laurinburg at a cost of \$1 per passenger. SCATS runs from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. Monday through Friday.

A complete list of SCATS stops is on page 4.

THERE'S MORE INSIDE

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John Blue Cotton Festival celebrates 20th anniversary



Jim Walker at the A.D. Gibson Store.

From a school field trip, a festival was born.

As the John Blue Cotton Festival celebrates its 20th anniversary October 11 and 12, Jim Walker looks back on its beginnings and what the future might hold.

A member of the John Blue Cotton Festival Committee for 18 of the past 20 years, Walker said the school children were brought to the John Blue property on a Friday. "The school children got to see some things that went on during the turn of the century."

The event was so well-received, organizers decided to keep the displays up for Saturday so area residents could see them, too.

"There were no exhibitors then, and food was scarce that day," Walker recalled.

The following year, it was decided to repeat the Friday exhibits for school children and follow it with something more formal for the community on Saturday.

"A hit and miss engine was brought in. A stage was set up for entertainment," Walker said. "So many people showed up, the food ran out."

By year three Walker became active on the John Blue Committee. "We started to invite crafters, food vendors and demonstrators."

Fridays eventually were abandoned in favor of a one-day Saturday festival-style event. "A little more each year has been added from that time until now."

Eventually the Festival transitioned into a Saturday/Sunday event with an opening worship service a focal point on Sundays.

There have been milestones along the way to this anniversary including the addition of a cotton gin, the John Blue Cotton Blossom Railroad and last year's open house at the newly relocated/refurbished A.D. Gibson Store.

More is ahead this year with a permanent drugstore display at the Gibson store and a permanent stage to showcase the growing list of entertainers.

This year the Pee Dee Antique Power Club will hold its annual event in conjunction with the John Blue Cotton Festival. Tractor games, slow tractor race, wagon backing contest and barrel roll will be featured.

Walker looks to the future with optimism based on past festival successes. "We hope the Lindo Harvell Museum will be open my next years, and talks continue on ways to provide more and better parking."



Willis, McQuage honored

Commissioner Clint Willis, above left, was honored by the governing body as an Outstanding County Commissioner.

A retired Brigadier General, his political experience includes service as a Scotland County Commissioner from 1992 to 1996 and from 2000 to 2004. He has served the Scotland County Health Department Board of Directors as Vice Chairman and as Chairman and is currently Chairman of the Scotland County Board of Social Services and President of the State Association of County Boards of Social Services.

He also is Chairman of the Fort Bragg Joint Land Use Advisory Commission and of the Rural Transportation Planning Organization.

Local, regional and State officials wrote letters lauding his achievements to date on behalf of North Carolina citizens. Those letters were presented by Chairman David L. Burns to Commissioner Willis in a commemorative book.

Below, Chairman Burns, right, presented a plaque to Inspections Director Tony McQuage in recognition of his professionalism and concern for the safety of County residents.

McQuage, who is certified at Level III in all five trades, the highest achievable certification level in the State, spent the past 21 months on-call nights and weekends to ensure the sound construction of Scotland Correctional Institution. The 1,000-bed close security facility began receiving inmates September 22.



Notes from the County Manager

Greetings. EOCs along the East Coast crossed their fingers as Isabel headed our way.

24 hours before the hurricane was expected to make landfall, our EOC (Emergency Operations Center) was in place and prepared for the worst should it occur. In our case, it made for an effective exercise as Isabel hit well north of us.

Emergency Management Director Roylin Hammond is to be commended for his hard work. So too are Inspectors Tony McQuage and Ernest Stephens who volunteered their time and expertise in the disaster relief effort.

Our EOC has been dismantled for now but our Good Neighbor Policy is always activated.



Scott Sauer

DSS employees win by losing

by Jan-Marie Fesmire, DSS Personnel Administrator

Eat Smart, Move More.

County employees heard this frequently when EWAC (Employee Wellness Activity Committee) began promoting wellness some months ago.

The idea is to eat more nutritiously, get more exercise and achieve a healthier lifestyle.

DSS employees in May got caught up in this endeavor, and they discussed a weight-loss incentive to shed extra pounds that had so mysteriously appeared over time.

A pool for those who wished to participate was established with each participant paying a \$10 entry fee. Every Tuesday morning was designated the standard weigh-in time where weight loss (or gain) was recorded. A neutral party facilitated the weigh-in process each week.

Employee participants were further motivated to lose weight because weight gain came with a price. Those who gained weight from the previous week's weigh-in contributed \$1 to the fund for each pound gained.

At the end of 14 weeks, the person who had lost the most weight would receive the prize, which was the total amount of dollars in the fund by the end of the contest.

With 17 participants, two were running a close race as the contest entered its final week September 2. The fund had grown to \$225 by that time, and everyone anxiously awaited the final weigh-in September 9 to see who would win.

Karen Chavis lost the most weight at 45 pounds, while Gaylord Hunt ran a close second with a 41-pound loss.

Even though Chavis won the \$225, all the participants who lost won. Thirteen of the initial 17 participants actually lost weight.

Participants encouraged one another as the contest progressed. Non-participants also got caught up in the spirit, and offered encouragement and praise.

Congratulations to all participants and their accomplishments. Perhaps more County employees will accept the challenge and strive to eat smart and move more.

Congratulations to the losers! *

Karen Chavis 45 pounds

Gaylord Hunt 41 pounds

Kim McRae 35 pounds

Angelita Locklear 14 pounds

Linda Graham 12 pounds

** The accumulative weight loss for all participants totaled 190 pounds.*

Post Scripts

In Health Department news congratulations to first-time grandmother **Robin Quick** on the July 4 birth of grandson Thomas James Dowler. We welcome **Sanjuana Ruiz**, who will work as a translator and Processing Assistant for the agency. Congratulations to **Deloris McNeill** LPN for being selected as the July Employee of the Month and to **Frank Fairley** for being selected as the August Employee of the Month. The Health Department was saddened by the death of **Dibber Adams**, who retired from the agency in 1990 after more than 20 years of employment. Thanks to **Lynda McMillan** for staffing our Relay for Life tent for the entire event. **Dawn McDonald** also camped out with Lynda. The agency raised \$3,865.37 for the American Cancer Society. The Environmental Health staff have been responding to numerous mosquito complaints. They have all put forth an extra effort to respond in a timely manner with minnows or larvicide. **Dawn McDonald, Teddy Locklear** and **Jane Murray** have been conducting town hall meetings and presentations in the community on mosquito awareness. The agency is available to speak in the community on mosquito bite prevention, EEE and West Nile Virus. Please contact Dawn at 277-2440 Ext. 412 to schedule a presentation. Congratulations to Christina Cox, daughter of Mary Cox and Lacey Murray, daughter of **Jane Murray**, for being selected to participate in Junior Leadership Scotland. Congratulations to **Betsey Ellerbe** on the birth of her daughter, Breah McKenzie, September 3. Welcome back to **Teresa Wilcox**. **Andy Kurtzman** has been hired to coordinate our Healthy Carolinians program. We're glad to have Andy working with us again. **Kitty Johnson** remains in our thoughts and prayers during her recuperation period. ☞ Scotland County Social Services completed a successful Relay for Life campaign with most activities occurring during the month of August. Different units had fundraisers and they were very creative with their ideas. Knowing we all like food, several units gave us the opportunity to eat by selling ice cream or having breakfast ready one morning. One unit offered a great lasagna lunch. Raffles were another popular way to raise funds and we raffled off Ida's famous carrot cake and a vacation. A yard sale and donations rounded out our fundraising ideas. Total funds raised for Relay for Life were \$1,515. Many thanks to all of you who participated. ☞ Parks and Recreation Director **Shannon Newton** and **Earl Bowling**, a member of the Parks and Recreation Foundation Board, attended a Fundraising for Foundations course September 18 and 19 in Raleigh. The course was hosted by Capital Development Corporation. ☞ Area Livestock Agent **Tiffanee Conrad** attended the County Animal Response Team/State Animal Response Team training in Kinston September 4 to 5. 4-H Youth Expanded Food and Nutrition

Education Program Assistant **Hazel McPhatter** attended the 4-H School Age Child Care Conference in Greensboro September 15 to 16. Agriculture Agent **David Morrison** held a pesticide training September 25. ☞ EMS employee anniversaries include **Betty Meekins**, 6 years; **Tim Hunt**, 2 years; and **Kori Quick**, 1 year. Congratulations to Paramedic/EMD **Amy Ratley** and Paramedic **David Ratley** on the birth of their son, David Alexander "Alex" Ratley IV.

the Birthday list for October

3 Shannon Newton Parks and Recreation) and Kathryn McMillan (DSS); 4 Patsy Whitehead (Health); 6 Clint Willis (Commissioner) and Freda Sinclair (DSS); 8 Robert Bowen (Administration); 11 Roy Chavis (EMS); 12 Otis McMillan (Health) and Raymond Esteves (DSS); 13 Kim Brayboy (Tax) and William Grant (EMS); 15 James Brigman (Public Works); 17 Jean Whitehead (Register of Deeds) and Rebecca Blue (Health); 18 Teresa Wilcox (Health); 19 Tessie Cousar and Sylvia Hughes (Health); 21 Kori Quick (EMS), Frances McLean (DSS) and Dwayne Cooper (Public Works); 22 Rachel Beach (Inspections); 23 Teddy Locklear and Margaret Nicholson (Health), Josephine Williams (Jail), Corbett Baldwin (EMS) and Beverly Wranosky (DSS); 25 Debra Maske (Health); 26 Danny Sprouse (Health) and Angela Hunt (Sheriff); 28 Veronica Locklear and Kep Kopley (Tax); 29 Clarence Milligan (Inspections); 31 Tommy Hatcher and David Ratley (EMS) and Antonia Rainer (DSS).

EMStatistics

EMS Report for August:

Responded to 378 Medical/Trauma calls.

Treated 43 motor vehicle accident patients.

Provided 17 stand-by medical coverages.

Gave 1 departmental presentation.

911 Report Highlights:

Received 1,450 total calls

288 EMS

348 Sheriff's Department

117 Laurinburg Police Department

25 Fire Department

287 hang-up calls

110 wrong numbers

106 open line calls

629 Cellular calls.

Report compiled by Tommy Hatcher.

**Board of Commissioners
regular meeting
7 p.m. October 6**

Voter Information and Dates

Registered voters in East Laurinburg, Gibson, Wagram and the City of Laurinburg are encouraged to participate in the upcoming municipal elections November 4.

October 5: Absentee Voting begins

(request by mail from eligible registered voters accepted through October 28)

October 10: Voter Registration/Change Deadline

October 16: One Stop Absentee Voting at the Elections Office begins (Early Voting No Excuse)

November 1: Last day to vote Early Vote up until 1 p.m.

November 4: Municipal Election Day

Unofficial Results to be posted in the hall of the County Annex Building

Prescriptions made affordable

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Entering the client's prescription medications into a special software program comprises the health assessment portion of the interview. Described as "brown bag assessments," participants are asked to bring medications they currently are taking.

"This helps determine negative reaction, which is where Burt Dean comes in," McCall said. "He's there to answer questions for the client."



Joan Walters surveys the information material on prescription drugs.

100 pharmaceutical companies participate in order to make available prescriptions drugs for individuals who suffer from angina, arrhythmia, asthma, bronchitis, diabetes mellitus, emphysema, hyperlipidemia or hypertension.

McCall credited Senator Bill Purcell for his efforts in making this program available to North Carolina counties.

The Lumber River Council of Government's Area Agency on Aging was successful in its bid for a grant from North Carolina Health and Wellness Trust Fund. As a result, citizens in Scotland, Robeson, Richmond and Hoke counties all will benefit from the program.

Introductions & transitions

Welcome employees who joined County departments since July 16: **William Evers** and **Dantae' Roland**, part-time in EMS; **Ronnie Morrisey**, Sheriff's Department; **Sarah Johnson**, DSS; **Dwayne Cooper** and **Vincent Locklear**, temporary in Public Works; and **Sarah Hinson**, part-time in Transportation.

Cotton Tour brings research to Scotland County farmers

by Melissa C. Hopkins, Cooperative Extension

A caravan of farmers crossed Scotland County September 10 as part of an area Cotton Tour. Close to 50 cotton farmers took part in the event designed to provide information on area cotton.

The tour began with a nematode test sponsored by the North Carolina Cooperative Extension Service, Robeson County Center and Carmichael Farms on Highway 71.

Steve Koenning, senior researcher of plant pathology specializing in soybeans, corn and cotton at North Carolina State University conducted the test, which determines the best method to eliminate nematodes, microscopic worms that feed on the root system of cotton plants.

"The nematocide is a chemical that controls them," said Agricultural Extension Agent David Morrison. "We are looking at different varieties of cotton and their ability to tolerate nematodes."

The importance of finding the right cotton variety can save the farmers money and frustration in the long run. Farmers who choose the proper varieties will not have to spend as much money on chemicals and will have better yields.

The tour continued to the Bryan Hagler Farm, where different methods of tillage were examined. Tilling is an important part of the planting process and can be costly.

"We are looking at tilling the soil versus dropping the planter down and planting without any tillage," Morrison said. "The no-till leaves residue on the soil surface so that when it rains we don't have the erosion problem we do with no tilling."

Crop Science Professor Daryl Bowman of NC State ran the cotton variety test for the farmers. He showed the 40 different varieties of cotton, their yields, maturing processes, harvesting times and the impact of rainfall.

The business portion of the tour concluded with explanations on the continued development of less hazardous chemicals. The primary focus of the demonstration conducted by Larry Locklear was the Envoke herbicide.

A meal sponsored by Monsanto and Syngenta ended the day for the touring group, allowing the farmers time to discuss what they'd seen.

"It was a good day," Morrison said. "There was a lot of information shared that will benefit our farmers."

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.

SCATS route stops



Approximate times repeated hourly through 5 p.m.

- 8:00 Housing Authority
- 8:05 Southmore Apartments, Baker Street
- 8:07 Star of Bethlehem Church
- 8:09 Youth Center, Stewartsville Road
- 8:12 East Vance and Biggs
- 8:14 East Church and Biggs
- 8:17 Biggs and Roper
- 8:19 McDuffie Village, Carver Street
- 8:20 DeBerry's Upholstery, McGirts Bridge Road
- 8:22 Nichols and Marcellus
- 8:24 Trad and Tara Drive
- 8:26 Alder and Tara Drive
- 8:28 Northside Shopping Center
- 8:30 Employment Office
- 8:35 West Railroad and Main Street
- 8:40 South Main and Church Street
- 8:42 HealthKeeperz Home Health
- 8:44 Wilmington and Raleigh
- 8:46 Winn-Dixie
- 8:48 WalMart
- 8:50 Department of Social Services
- 8:55 Scotland Crossing
- 8:57 Holly Square
- 8:58 Medical Village