



SCOTLAND COUNTY MONTHLY

SEPTEMBER 2004

A newsletter for Scotland County employees

Central's fate studied



The Housing Authority is studying the possibility of converting Central School into a retirement facility for the elderly. Meanwhile, Central has been nominated to the National Register of Historic Places which, if successful, could lead to a final review and listing in the National Register.

Health agency gauges its preparedness abilities

In a post-9/11 world a person infected with smallpox could pass the virus on to an entire community. The Health Department intends to be prepared should such a tragic event occur.

As part of an annual Preparedness and Response exercise, the Health Department, along with first responders, law enforcement, the hospital and public schools, will conduct a mass vaccination clinic Saturday, November 6 at Scotland High School.

The High School would be the site of a mass vaccination clinic to begin with because it is a large facility that would accommodate separate areas for education, registration and vaccination, explained Tina Oxendine, Preparedness and Response/Communicable Disease Supervisor.

In the event of a real mass vaccination clinic, school buses would be used to transport citizens to the high school from designated pick-up sites throughout the County. For the exercise, however, the County's area transit vehicles will be used.

Oxendine said the Health Department hopes to recruit at least 200 volunteers to participate in the
see Vaccination, page 6

Amended ordinance gets tough on burned and abandoned structures

Abandoned manufactured homes, mobile homes, burned or partially burned structures and other uninhabited structures now fall under the "construction and demolition waste" definition of the Solid Waste Management Ordinance.

The amended ordinance, approved September 13 by the governing body, further states that any resident or landowner who allows a structure defined as demolition waste to remain on their property would receive a 30-day notification to dispose of the waste.

Proper disposal of such structures would be required if they constitute a hazard or attractive nuisance.

"This will expedite the removal process of these type structures," explained County Engineer Jim Blackwell.

He added that a backlog of about 100 such structures now exist in the County, and the Solid Waste Enforcement Officer J.R. Horne is busy putting landowners on 30-day notice.

Blackwell said the amendments complement the already existing Mobile Home Recycling Program and streamline the disposal process at the local level.

He explained that the County can enforce the disposal of these structures according to State General Statutes, but the mechanism with which to do that could stretch out to a year. "The revisions would make the ordinance current with State regulations and help the County manage abandoned structures in a timely manner."



The County now will be able to expedite the disposal of structures like this one, which burned five years ago.

Additionally, a violation for littering was added and solid waste disposal site and transfer station was redefined to agree with new regulations.

Other amendments define asbestos as a material banned from the landfill and access to private property to correct violations is authorized.

Blackwell said the ordinance revisions were developed with the taxpayer in mind. "We wanted to ensure that the County and the taxpayers don't have to foot the bill for this."

County Manager search continues

The Board of Commissioners at a special meeting September 27 agreed to continue the search for a County Manager. The governing body directed Personnel Administrator Susan Butler to readvertise the position immediately.

Commissioners Charles "Scooter" Jordan (Chairman), Nancy Shelley and J.D. Willis will remain on the Search Committee until December 6 when the new Commissioners take the oath of office and another Search Committee can be appointed.

Mosquito problems can be reduced after a storm

by David Morrison, Agricultural Extension Agent

Heavy rains and storm damage provide attractive breeding sites for species of mosquitoes that remain active until late fall. Holes left by uprooted trees, tire ruts or soil erosion made by vehicles and heavy equipment fill up quickly with water that can stagnate over days.

If the weather stays clear, then many of these temporary water sources should dry up and reduce some mosquito problems.

However, widespread flooding might create more persistent pockets of stagnant water, which are likely to become mosquito breeding grounds.

As you begin cleaning up around your property, you should take time to do the following:

- ▶ Overturn or empty objects that have collected stormwater.

- ▶ Clear gutters and downspouts of debris so that rainwater drains properly.

- ▶ Remove water that collects on sagging tarpaulins or other covers on your house or property.

- ▶ Clear debris from drainage ditches and storm drains so that water will flow and not stagnate.

- ▶ Fill in holes left by uprooted trees, vehicles or heavy equipment.

Larger water-filled objects, such as swimming pools that become stagnant from lack of maintenance, can be treated with an insecticide containing the bacteria *Bacillus thuringiensis israelensis* (Bti), which does not pose a hazard to animals.

In drier areas of the yard, spraying the shrubs where mosquitoes might be resting will reduce the mosquito population somewhat, but it is not likely to have a significant overall impact, particularly if your neighbors do not take any corrective action.

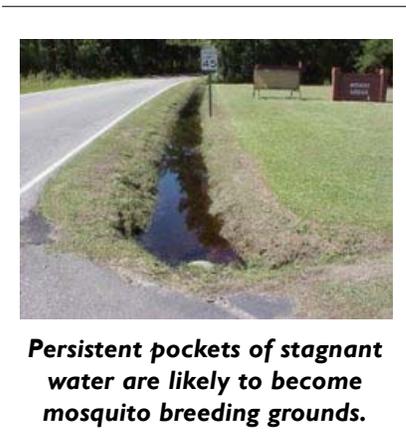
Some mosquitoes can fly one-quarter mile or more in search of bloodmeals while other species more typically travel a few 100 yards or less.

Mosquito control or abatement must be a community effort in order to be successful.

If your community has severe mosquito populations, contact your municipal government or Health Department for educational materials, prevention assistance and advice.

Personal protection is the best recourse. Staying indoors is one way to avoid mosquitoes, although this is usually not possible or practical if you are active in cleanup and repair efforts. Wearing long-sleeved shirts and long pants also help (although this may be uncomfortable).

Chemical repellants, such as products containing DEET, are still the best option for personal protection outdoors. Children and pregnant women should use small amounts (and the lowest concentrations) of these repellents.



Healthy Carolinians gets recertified

Scotland County Healthy Carolinians was recommended for a four-year recertification by the Governor's Task Force Committee for Certification-Recertification.

The recommendation recognizes high standards achievement by Scotland County's Healthy Carolinians and allows for continued eligibility for grant funding from the Kate B. Reynolds Charitable Trust.

The local Healthy Carolinians was commended for engaging commitment for the physical activity initiative by local physicians, particularly for the Great Ex-STEP-tations Walking Program.

Additional areas praised included implementation of a communication plan, which provides high visibility; membership development; informed and involved elected officials and an updated and current community health assessment.

Recommended improvements to the local Healthy Carolinians Partnership included involving more youth representation on the steering committee; expanding leadership further into the community; developing a more visible relationship and commitment with the hospital; establishing resource development strategies to assure ongoing support; and expanding membership to involve more community members.

Program Coordinator Andy Kurtzman credited support by the the Scotland County community with the recertification recommendation.

He said, "Increased collaboration with the community to further the mission of Scotland County Healthy Carolinians will continue to empower citizens through education and promotion of healthy lifestyles and safe communities."

Free pesticide disposal date set

by David Morrison, Agricultural Extension Agent



Products with unknown identities, products that are unlabeled or products not in pesticide containers cannot be accepted.

Pesticide Disposal Collection Day for Scotland County is scheduled for Wednesday, October 6, from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. at Royster Clark, 14040 Dixie Guano Road, East Laurinburg.

Collection Day is conducted in partnership with the N.C. Department of Agriculture.

Any pesticides (insecticides, fungicides, herbicides, etc.) in original containers and clearly labeled can be collected October 6. There is no charge to the public participant for this service.

However, products with unknown identities, products that are unlabeled or products not in pesticide containers cannot be accepted. Additionally, materials of unknown identity, paints or other hazardous waste will not be accepted.

Participants with pesticide products that are in containers greater than five gallons in size must preregister for assistance in advance of the collection.

Containers greater than five gallons in size, such as 30 or 55 gallon drums, must be overpacked for collection and transport. Therefore, it is necessary that a call be made to the Cooperative Extension office at 910-277-2422 so arrangements and necessary supplies can be on hand to package the material for proper transport and disposal.

New timesheets reflect change in work-week

Effective September 11, the work-week for all departments, except Sheriff and EMS, will run from Friday at 5:01 p.m. (Saturday) through Friday at 5 p.m. Employee timesheets now reflect the work-weeks as Saturday to Friday.

The change corresponds with timesheets already used by the Department of Social Services, who several years ago received approval to alter the work-week for the department from Monday through Sunday to Friday at 5:01 p.m. (Saturday) through Friday at 5:00 p.m.

This better accommodated Child Protective Services staff who are required to be on-call through the weekend. It allowed CPS employees to adjust hours worked throughout the week to avoid the accumulation of so much overtime.

Since all departments could benefit from this change to minimize the accumulation of overtime, the new work-week schedule was made effective.

Any time worked after 5:01 p.m. on Friday will be recorded as time worked on Saturday. This creates flexibility within the remainder of the work-week to accommodate hours worked during the weekend.

Please remember that any overtime work requires prior approval from the supervisor.

Reorganization planned

Office moves are planned for Environmental Health, Mapping and the IT Department as a way to increase efficiency and enhance customer service.

Environmental Health staff will move from the Annex on Cronly Street to the Health Department now that its expansion project is complete.

The move allows the three-person Environmental Health staff to work more closely with Health Department Director Jane Murray.

Citizens who require Environmental Health services will be able to submit the appropriate paperwork at the old and new locations.

Mapping will move from the former Revaluation Office to the space vacated by Environmental Health so the staff can better coordinate the work it does with that of Planning, Zoning and Inspections.

Additionally, the Mapping office entrance located on the side of the James Street parking lot was not a place customers could easily find. That will be resolved with its new location in the Cronly Street Annex.

The IT Department will occupy what was the Mapping space.

"The move would improve the daily advisory relationship between supervisors and their staff and also enhance a customer friendly atmosphere," said Finance Officer/Assistant County Manager Kevin Patterson. "The supervisors support the proposed plan, and there would be little if any cost to the County other than staff time and resolving some cabling issues."

Post Scripts

County employees can once again participate in **Fair Share** when this year's **United Way Campaign** is launched. Employees who participate in Fair Share pledge the equivalent of one hour each month to United Way. Those

employees get their birthday off. One-time gift and payroll deductions also are options. ❀

Condolences to **Robert Bowen**, Administration, whose father passed away September 25. ❀

The Health Department shares news: Congratulations **Danny Sprouse** on the September 11 marriage of daughter Amanda to David Hesselmyer. **Cindy Gibson** is the proud

grandmother of Trevor Andrew Russell, born September 9, the son of Leigh Ann and Thomas Russell.

Also a grandmother is **Tina Oxendine**, who

welcomed grandson Emery Bryce Hunt September 22, to Tina's daughter, Adrianna Hunt. **Barbara Mack, Andy Kurtzman** and **Kathie Cox**

coordinated successful Healthy NC Month activities in September. The agency received a congratulatory letter from Governor Mike Easley for the Faith

Wellness Grant Initiative. **Barbara Mack** wrote a grant for \$16,500 funded by the Physical Activity and Nutrition Branch of the Division of Public Health.

The grant will purchase educational materials and train all public elementary school teachers on the importance of nutrition and increased physical activity in children. Welcome **Michelle Taylor Skipper**, RN FNP. Environmental

Health will move back to the Health Department by the end of October. We wish **Esther Taylor** a speedy recovery. Welcome back **Carlotta Rivers,**

Margaret Nicholson and **Shirley Grooms.** **Kathie Cox** and **Barbara Mack**

attended the Region V Health Promotion Coordinators Regional meeting September 22 in Duplin County. **Andy Kurtzman** and **Kathie Cox**

visited the Robeson County Healthy Carolinians meeting in Lumberton September 23. The two also will attend the Annual Healthy Carolinians Conference

October 7 to 8 in Greensboro. The Health Department expects to administer the flu vaccine beginning Saturday, October 9. ❀

Congratulations to **Gaylord Hunt**, IT Department, and **Barbie Rollins Hunt** on the August 30 birth of a son, Chance Lakota Hunt. ❀

Scotland County Parks and Recreation **Adult Co-Ed Volleyball** will begin this fall. Interested teams should send a representative to the meeting October 25, 6 p.m., at Scotland Place. Contact

Al Blades at Parks and Recreation, 277-2589. ❀ The **John Blue House** is open 10 a.m. to 4 p.m., Monday through Saturday, thanks to Historic Properties

Commission volunteers. ❀ County Engineer **Jim Blackwell** will serve on the State 4-H Livestock Advisory Board. Blackwell, his wife Beth and daughter

Jenni provide leadership and supply heifers to members of the Scotland County 4-H Cow Tales Club. ❀ **Linda Graham, Karen Chavis** and **Antonia Rainer,**

DSS, attended LIEAP/CIP training September 24 in Stanley County.

Introductions & transitions

The following individuals joined Scotland County Departments since July 16: **Willie Hunt**, temporary in Public Works while **Vincent Locklear** and

Stephen Oxendine make the transition from parttime to fulltime in Public Works. Transitions occurred now that Planning, Zoning and Inspections were

restructured. **Tony McQuage** now serves as Director. **McQuage, Jim Blackwell, Ernest Stephens** and **Joy Nolan** are the appointed Mapping

Review Officers. Nolan also will serve as Clerk to the Planning and Zoning Board and Board of Zoning Adjustment.

McQuage called to assist in flood damage assessment

After the flooding subsided, Tony McQuage could still see watermarks above the windows almost to the roof lines of the two-story houses.

Clothing clung to trees along the riverbank, and automobiles had been turned upside down.

The sightings came as no surprise to McQuage, who spent four days in mid-September assessing structural damage caused by Hurricane Frances in the Haywood County town of Canton.

McQuage, Scotland County's Planning, Zoning and Inspections Director, traveled to Haywood County at the request of the State Department of Insurance.

"The Department of Insurance knew I worked at the coast last year after Hurricane Isabel, and they wanted someone with flood damage experience," said McQuage.

McQuage's job was to assess the extent of damage of homes and determine which structures could safely have power restored.

Along the way he met Canton residents who were attempting to salvage what was left of their possessions. McQuage said they were in relatively good spirits considering their situation.

Although the County pays McQuage's salary it is reimbursed by FEMA for this type of assignment.

McQuage, who is certified at Level III in all five trades, the highest achievable certification level in the State, said he would help other flood damaged areas again if asked and the County approves his absence.

the Birthday list for October

2 Gerald Johnson (Elections); **3** Shannon Newton (Parks and Recreation) and Kathryn McMillan (DSS); **4** Patsy Whitehead (Health) and Larry McGill (Elections); **6** Clint Willis (Commissioner) and Freda Sinclair (DSS); **7** Edna McCoy (Elections); **8** Robert Bowen (Administration); **11** Roy Chavis (EMS) and Thomas Miller (Elections); **12** Raymond Esteves (DSS) and Otis McMillan (Health); **13** Kim Brayboy (Tax) and William Grant (EMS); **17** Jean Whitehead (Register of Deeds) and Janie Adams (Elections); **19** Tessie Cousar and Sylvia Hughes (Health); **20** Sharon Leister (Elections); **21** Frances McLean (DSS) and Erica Wilson (Elections); **22** Rachel Beach (Inspections) and Alicia Kraut (Parks and Recreation); **23** Corbett Baldwin (EMS), Margaret Nicholson (Health) and Beverly Wranosky (DSS); **24** George Britt (Sheriff) and Jonathan Bell and Kristin Shoemake (EMS); **25** Debra Maske (Health) and Lee Hafer (Elections); **26** Danny Sprouse (Health), Angela Hunt (Sheriff) and Evelyn Murphy and Helen Rex (Elections); **28** Vicky Locklear (Tax); **29** Clarence Milligan (Inspections); **31** Tommy Hatcher (EMS).

Employees receive copayment holiday on generic drugs

Copayments will be waived by Blue Cross and Blue Shield of North Carolina (BCBSNC) for members who fill generic drug prescriptions from October through December 2004. The initiative is part of a broader effort by BCBSNC to help members manage their prescription drug costs without sacrificing quality.

"We are launching this generic copayment holiday to encourage our members to talk to their physicians and pharmacists about whether switching to a generic drug might be right for them," said Dr. Bob Harris, BCBSNC senior vice president and chief medical officer. "Generic drugs can provide the same

therapeutic benefits as their brand-name counterparts but at far less cost. They meet the same rigorous health and safety standards set forth by the U.S. Food and Drug Administration as brand-name drugs."

Generics typically cost 30 to 70 percent less than the comparable brand-name drug. For BCBSNC members, the average monthly out-of-pocket savings for switching to an appropriate generic is \$10 to \$30, or an annual savings of \$120 to \$360.

To take advantage of the generic copayment waiver, members simply present their generic prescription at a participating BCBSNC pharmacy between October 1 and December 31. The copayment will automatically be waived when the prescription is filled. The three-month waiver applies to both new prescriptions and refills.

BCBSNC members retain the option of choosing a brand-name drug, even if an appropriate generic alternative is available. Members cannot be prescribed a generic drug unless a physician specifically indicates that it is an appropriate alternative to a brand-name drug.

Ron Smith, BCBSNC director of Corporate Pharmacy, explained, "Members typically pay more out of pocket for brand-name drugs because these drugs cost us more. This generic copayment holiday is an ideal time for our members to determine whether they can get their needed medications at less cost."

The copayment waiver applies to about 1.1 million members who have prescription drug coverage through BCBSNC. Members of the State Health Plan and Federal Employee Program are not eligible because BCBSNC does not administer the drug benefits for those plans.

Enjoy the 21st Annual John Blue Cotton Festival October 9-10



Gates open 10 a.m.
Saturday and Sunday



Copayments will be waived for BCBSNC members who fill generic drug prescriptions from October through December 2004.

ECA team applies history to quilt square project

Scotland County will become a part of North Carolina 4-H history with a quilt square that symbolizes its cultural roots. The quilt squares submitted by all 100 counties will be made into a quilt that will be housed in the North Carolina 4-H Museum in Ellerbe.

The project is sponsored by the State 4-H Leader's Association in celebration of its 25th anniversary.

The finished quilt will be on display in Raleigh at the annual 4-H Volunteer Leaders Association Conference in February 2005.

When presented with this challenge, Scotland County 4-H Agent Sharon English consulted the Extension and Community Association (ECA).



The ECA team, left to right, are Mozelle Parker, Evelylin Barringer, Jean Nadeau, Margaret Harding (holding square), Midge English and Edna Rhonehouse.

"We are fortunate to have ECA members in the County who are more than willing to give of their time and talents to promote the work of Cooperative Extension," English said.

The ECA members skilled in sewing and quilting who accepted the challenge were Jean Nadeau, Midge English, Mozelle Parker, Edna Rhonehouse, Margaret Harding and Evelylin Barringer.

Nadeau, an artist and designer, developed a pattern that captured the spirit of Scotland County by incorporating cotton, Scottish plaid and a blue accent with "Scotland" displayed in a vibrant golden yellow.

Area resident Beachum McDougald donated authentic plaid fabric from Scotland for use in the quilt square.

With less than three weeks to complete the project, the square was passed from team member to team member, which allowed each to make a personal contribution.

The quilt square was completed one day ahead of schedule on September 9 largely due to efficient planning by the ECA team.

"We are happy that we could be a part of this project and are honored to have some of our work displayed in the 4-H Museum," said ECA team member Parker.

English said, "The ECA team was wonderful to work with, and I thoroughly enjoyed watching them as they progressed with this project".



Well placed signs serve as reminder to "click it or ticket"

A State survey indicates the highest documented incidences of people not wearing seatbelts are among government workers.

So the sign, pictured above, takes on special significance for municipal and County employees.

The Laurinburg Police Department placed these highly visible warning signs — "click it or ticket" — along Church Street/US 74 as a reminder that drivers should protect themselves and their passengers while on the road.

The signs were posted before Labor Day, which is considered by local and State officials as one of the deadliest holiday weekends in the year, and they serve as a reminder that to "click it" is a vital component to safe driving.

Exercise your right to Vote Early

Avoid the long lines at the polls.

**Vote Early beginning Thursday October 14,
8 a.m. to 5 p.m.,
and continuing Monday through Friday, 8 a.m. to 5 p.m.
up until Saturday, October 30, 8 a.m. to 1 p.m.**

**All early voting will take place in the
Scotland County Board of Elections Office
at 231 East Cronly Street.**

**If you wish to vote in the comfort of your home
you may request in writing
that a ballot be mailed to you.**

**Are students away at college?
Parents may request in writing that a ballot be mailed
to students at their college address.**

**If they will be home any time during Early Voting,
students can stop by the Board of Elections and vote.**

**If parent(s) are in a retirement home,
you may request in writing that a ballot be mailed
to the retirement home.**

**Reminder: Deadline to register to vote
or make any changes is 5 p.m., October 8.**

IDs provide holders with access during crisis situations

In times of crisis it's essential that government personnel and emergency responders gain access to the information.

EMS Director Roylin Hammond will ease the way through the distribution of special identification badges for County and City employees and all area first responders.

Hammond is creating photo IDs using equipment purchased with Homeland Security Funds valued at \$8,200. The equipment includes software, camera and printer.

"In the case of a hurricane, outbreak of smallpox, a terrorism attack or any crisis event, there is a need for access to the area and the scene," Hammond explained.

He added, "It gives us a way to identify those people coming in from the outside when we need their help."

Once an ID is issued, the individual's photo and relevant information is maintained by department in a database.

The IDs issued by Hammond are not meant for Courthouse access. The County Manager's Office provides the IDs for County employees, attorneys, Courthouse staff and individuals whose job brings them to the facility on a frequent basis.

Hammond will issue IDs to other County departments by appointment as he did recently for Transportation, DSS, Health and the City of Laurinburg.

"In today's times, people need IDs to do their jobs," Hammond said. "That's unfortunate, but it's a fact of life."



It takes only a few minutes for Roylin Hammond, left, to prepare a photograph identification for Tim Martin, DSS, for his ID card.

31 reasons given to be active

There are "31 Reasons to be Active," according to the *National Employee Health and Fitness 2004 catalog*, published by the National Association for Health and Fitness, the Network of State and Governor's Councils. Here they are:

1. Biking to work beats sitting in traffic.
2. You can't get stuck in the elevator if you take the stairs.
3. It's good for me.
4. To keep up with my kids.
5. I'm getting together with my workout buddies.
6. If I don't watch my weight, who will?
7. Running on a treadmill beats staring at a TV.
8. The Olympics are calling.
9. The view is better from the top of the hill.
10. For the health of it.
11. Swimming is a great excuse for hanging out at the pool.
12. Nobody expects a tip when I carry my own groceries.
13. You get a lot more from gardening than beautiful plants.
14. Somewhere, there's a trophy with my name on it.
15. Doing things for myself does my heart and lungs good.
16. Living longer, living stronger.
17. Being active is a great way to meet people.
18. I've got a class reunion coming up.
19. I don't want to miss out on all the fun.
20. So I can play as hard as I work.
21. Mall walking keeps me in shape for mall shopping.
22. It's the fountain of youth.
23. So I can be my personal best.
24. I'm breaking in a new pair of sneakers.
25. To reach a new goal.
26. Because tomorrow can be better than today.
27. Because a stationary bike beats a stationary body.
28. It gets me out of the house.
29. It gives me a competitive edge.
30. I'm listening to my doctor.
31. For Life!

EMStatistics

**EMS Report for August:
Responded to 405**

Medical/Trauma calls

Treated 56 motor vehicle
accident patients

Provided 2 medical
coverages

Administered 115 blood
pressure checks

911 Report Highlights:

Received 1,407 total calls

372 EMS

271 Sheriff's Department

108 Laurinburg Police
Department

16 Fire Department

258 hang-up calls

91 wrong numbers

85 open line calls

594 cellular calls

Weather Observations (EMS Recordings)

Temp (high) 96 on
August 5

Temp (low) 55 on
August 7

Wind (mph) 33 on
August 12

Rainfall (inches) 3.34
on August 29

**Compiled by
Tommy Hatcher**

Mass vaccination clinic tested

continued from page 1

exercise by contacting churches, local clubs, service agencies, high school students, senior citizens groups and families of first responders.

"This is how we would test the County's ability to get the job done and to protect Scotland County citizens should a major event occur, whether it be natural or related to bioterrorism," Oxendine explained.

She added, "We want to test our weaknesses and strengths and prepare participating agencies on what they would be expected to do."

Scotland County Monthly is published by the
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news and information to employees.

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