

Scotland County Monthly

SEPTEMBER 2005

A newsletter for Scotland County employees



4-H, County employees reach out to Katrina victims

Scotland County 4-H and Scotland County employees joined forces to reach out to the victims of Hurricane Katrina through the North Carolina 4-H Helpful Hands, Healing Hearts Campaign.

4-H groups in every county in the State participated in the campaign to provide assistance to the victims of Hurricane Katrina. Scotland County 4-H collected non-perishable items to pack in shoeboxes for both youth and adults. The boxes were filled with age and gender appropriate and hygiene supplies or activity and educational materials. Each box also contained a note of encouragement for the recipient.



Left to right, 4-Hers Ryan Norton, Brandi Smith and Ashton Carroll work alongside Commissioner Clarence McPhatter and County Manager John Crumpton packaging supplies for Hurricane Katrina victims.

local 4-H group and Cooperative Extension to send much needed supplies to the area."

Donated items included flashlights with batteries, small games, activity sheets to use for educational studies, coloring books, crayons, pens, paper, small books, pre-sharpened pencils, hygiene items, craft and game supplies, first aid products, diapers, formula, wipes, bottled water and hand sanitizer. Food and clothing items were not included in this project.

The items were given to youth and adults for use while living in shelters and temporary housing.



New exhibits planned for John Blue Cotton Festival

A cabin with dressing rooms for performers, pictured, will be among several new John Blue Cotton Festival highlights awaiting visitors.

Rebecca Blue, Historic Properties volunteer coordinator said the cabin, has a central hall with dressing rooms on either side. "The cabin was built to look old so it would match the other cabins on the grounds."



**The John Blue Cotton Festival
10 a.m. October 8 and 9**

The stage and cabin will be available throughout the year for public and private community events such as family reunions, gospel sings and dance concerts.

Festival visitors will have opportunity to watch the Tractor Club cut wood at the saw mill that will be used to construct a shed to cover the saw mill.

The sitting room inside the John Blue house is complete and ready for viewing during the house tours. The dining room is in the process of being restored.

The Festival, now in its 22nd year, attracts thousand of visitors from the community and region.

Cable transition underway

The Board of Commissioners approved a resolution to keep the Adelphia contract in force through 2009 as it transitions to Time Warner Cable.

County Manager John Crumpton said the passage of the resolution was important since it represents about \$57,000 in revenue a year to the County.

Crumpton said improvement in some areas that were not being satisfied by Adelphia could be corrected by Time Warner, which purchased Adelphia earlier this year.

Emergency personnel take decon training



Emergency responders slipped into Tyvek suits. Duct tape was then coiled around their wrists and ankles to keep gloves and boots secure, pictured above. The disposable suits generate a tremendous amount of internal heat, so they can only be worn for a limited time, 30 minutes at most and 20 on very hot days.

This was all part of a Countywide decontamination exercise, which culminated an evening and afternoon of training on steps emergency personnel must take to help victims contaminated with biological or chemical substances.

Emergency responders divided into two training units. Part of the exercise, which took about 10 minutes, required the responders to erect a portable decontamination chamber.

Volunteers, pictured below, were sent conveyor-style through the chamber and scrubbed from head to toe with soap and water.

About 40 emergency personnel representing EMS, Rescue Squad, fire departments, Health Department and hospital participated in all or part of the exercise.

EMS Director Roylin Hammond said, "I thought it went extremely well, and the teamwork was good."

He added, "We will try to get together every quarter. This type of exercise helps us assess additional equipment we might need and correct things that aren't going right."



Message from the Manager

It has has been 60 days since my arrival in Scotland County. I continue to see exceptional work being done by County employees on a shoestring budget. I am extremely impressed in the creative ways employees save money.

However, employee safety is one area where the County will not cut corners. Each employee has a responsibility to themselves, their family and their co-workers to work in a safe manner.

They also have a responsibility to report unsafe work practices or conditions to their Supervisors or Department Heads.

All employees should follow the set safety procedures for their positions. Cutting corners and sacrificing safety is not acceptable.

In the next 60 days I plan to present a new Risk Management Policies and Procedures program to the Commissioners. The program is designed to raise the level of safety awareness to all employees of the County.

The program begins with training and education. Each employee will go through training and retraining to ensure they understand the safety policy. Employee safety starts with you the employee. Please take it seriously.

On another note, the Management Team is beginning to review ways to work more efficiently. Please share with your supervisor any ideas on how we can use technology or better work procedures to cut costs, improve productivity or improve the quality of our service delivery to our citizens. If you feel strongly about your idea, please email me.

We must not work harder — we must work smarter to improve productivity.

I have enjoyed my first 60 days. Meeting everyone has been fun. Having fun is an important part of work. Our work is serious, but a few minutes of fun each day is a must, or we all will suffer from burnout.

Thank you for your continued hard work and dedication to the County. I look forward to seeing each of you as I come around to your departments.



John A. Crumpton

Strong start for dog ordinance

In the first two weeks since the Animal Control Ordinance took effect September 1, a total of 15 warning violations were issued.

Animal Control Officer Larry Herring issued 10 warnings for dogs running loose and five for dogs being tethered for longer than an hour at a time.

Health Director Jane Murray said 14 of the dogs were not vaccinated against rabies. She added that many of the owners said they knew the Ordinance had become effective, they just didn't expect to be caught so soon.

Murray praised Herring for his aggressive enforcement of the Ordinance.

The following are tips on raising dogs and reacting to unfamiliar dogs.

For pet owners:

Before getting a dog, ask a veterinarian which breed would be right for your family and lifestyle. Socialize your dog so it feels at ease around people and animals. Don't put a dog in situations in which it might feel threatened or be teased. Train your dog to consistently obey basic commands.

For adults and children:

Never approach an unfamiliar dog. If approached by an unfamiliar dog, stand still like a tree. If you believe a dog is about to attack you, place something between yourself and the dog, such as a backpack or a bicycle. If a dog knocks you down, roll into a ball, cover your face and stay still.

Young children should never play with any dog, including the family pet, unless supervised by an adult. Don't disturb a dog that is eating, sleeping or caring for puppies.

Source: usatoday.com

Area transit drivers participate in wheelchair restraint workshop

Transit drivers from neighboring counties learned about wheelchair restraints and transport during a half-day workshop.

Hosted by Scotland County Area Transit System (SCATS), drivers concluded the session with a hands-on training exercise.

Led by Steve Barker, Sure-Lok product specialist, transit drivers studied pre-trip equipment assessments, passenger sensitivity, equipment components and assembly, securing the wheelchair and the occupant and system care and maintenance.

SCATS Transportation Coordinator Gracie Rettig said area transit staff attend the workshops to keep current on and familiarize themselves with State regulations.



Steve Barker shows SCATS Safety Coordinator Wanda Britt what happens to a properly secured wheelchair if a van begins to roll.

McDow elected to NCACC Board

Commissioner Joyce McDow was elected to a two-year term on the Board of Directors of the North Carolina Association of County Commissioners (NCACC).



Commissioner Joyce McDow

Commissioner McDow will serve as the District 5 director, representing Bladen, Hoke, Robeson and Scotland counties. The Association's Board is comprised of five officers, 18 district directors, five at-large appointees and several ex-officio members who either serve on the board of the National Association of Counties or chair Association steering committees.

NCACC is the official voice of all 100 counties on issues being considered by the General Assembly and State and federal agencies.

The Board of Directors meets several times throughout the year to develop statewide policy goals in such areas as taxation, agriculture, environment, criminal justice, human resources and public education.

the Birthday list for October

2 Leon Butler (Commissioner); **3** Shannon Newton (Parks and Recreation) and Kaye McMillan (DSS); **4** Patsy Whitehead (Health); **5** John Crumpton (Administration); **6** Clint Willis (DSS Board) and Freda Sinclair (DSS); **8** Robert Bowen (Administration); **11** Lee Chavis (EMS); **12** Rev. Otis McMillan (Health Board) and Raymond Esteves (DSS); **13** William Grant (EMS) and Kim Brayboy (Tax); **17** Janie Adams (Elections) and Jean Whitehead (Register of Deeds); **19** Sylvia Hughes and Tessie Cousar (Health); **21** Frances McLean (DSS); **22** Rachel Beach (Inspections) and Alicia Krout (Parks and Recreation); **23** Corbett Baldwin (EMS), Margaret Nicholson (Health) and Beverly Wranosky (DSS); **24** Jonathan Bell and Kristin Shoemake (EMS) and George Britt (Sheriff); **25** Debra Maske (Health); **26** Danny Sprouse (Health) and Sissy Hunt (Sheriff); **27** Michelle Taylor-Skipper (Health); **28** Walter Rea (Sheriff) and Veronica Locklear (Tax); **29** Thomas Milligan (Inspections); **31** Tommy Hatcher (EMS) and Antonia Rainer (DSS).

News of Note

SCATS drivers embrace the blue

Scotland Area Transit System (SCATS) drivers have new uniforms. The knit burgundy golf shirts were replaced with bright blue all cotton button front shirts. Transportation Coordinator Gracie Rettig said the SCATS staff selected the shirts because they are lightweight and cooler to wear in the summer. When the weather cools, the drivers will switch to all cotton long-sleeve shirts. SCATS drivers coordinate the new look with black slacks.

Relay for Life fundraiser a success

It was a successful Relay for Life Campaign this year for the Health Department and DSS. Their combined efforts raised in excess of \$4,350. Fundraisers, which were held in July and August, included Blue Jean Days, bake sales, and chicken salad and pimento cheese sandwich sales. The Silent Auction was the largest fundraiser, which brought in \$1,200 alone for Relay for Life. This was a banner year for the Scotland County campaign overall, which raised more than \$244,000. Health and DSS thank everyone for their participation and dedication to this annual project. The Relay for Life campaign followed a successful March of Dimes campaign when the agency raised \$2,900. The Health Department in July also provided Lisa Locklear RN with supplies for children to take on her two-week medical trip to Bolivia.

Local agencies provide Katrina support

Scotland County Emergency Services recently made 30 ID photo cards for all Red Cross volunteers who have been or may be deployed for Hurricane Katrina. Locally, DSS assisted five families displaced by Katrina providing referrals and taking applications for Food Stamps, Medicaid and Benefit Diversion.

Bike Rodeo scheduled

A Bike Rodeo featuring carseat safety checks by certified car seat technicians will be held October 1, 10 a.m. to 12 p.m., at the Health Department, sponsor of the event along with the North Carolina Highway Patrol. Children ages 5 to 12 must bring their own bicycles in order to participate. Free bike helmets will be distributed to the first 100 children who register and bring their immunization record for review. There will be drawings for Wal Mart gift certificates and free bicycles.

Introductions & transitions

Welcome to those individuals who joined Scotland County departments since June 16, 2005: **Ebonie Williams**, DSS; **Callie Newton**, temporary with the Splash Pad; **Alicia Krout**, temporary with Parks and Recreation; **Nyree Charette** and **Rhonda Cox**, temporary with DSS; **Marcus Hunt**, part-time with EMS; **Janie Adams** part-time with Board of Elections and **Anthony Livingston** part-time with Transportation. **Larry Tunstall** transitioned from part-time with EMS to full-time with the Sheriff. **Sandra Clark** transitioned from temporary with Public Works to full-time.

Historic Properties Rebound

People who love to read now have an opportunity to support historic properties in the County.

So believes the Historic Properties Commission, which opened Rebound Book Exchange. Located on X-Way Road across from the John Blue House, Rebound offers more than 20,000 titles at half the cost of the retail purchase price. The books were a gift to the Commission from the former Boomerang Book Exchange.

"Part of why we did this is to help raise money for historic properties, and part of this is a service to the community," said Historic Properties Commission Chairman John Stewart.



Commissioner John Alford, third from right, was among attendees at Rebound's grand opening. Alford also serves on the Historic Properties

Those who bring books to Rebound will receive credit for one-quarter of the original price. Stewart said paperback donations in particular are encouraged.

Rebound revenues will help pay for utility bills and maintenance of historic buildings on the grounds of the John Blue property.

Historic Properties Commission volunteers will work the following store hours: Thursday through Saturday, 10 a.m. to 5 p.m.

Stewart said the operation of the County's historic properties is dependent on commitment from volunteers.

"I can't say enough about the people who work out here," he said. "There is always a need for more volunteers."

A separate room at Rebound will be used to showcase local art and personal collections on a six-week rotation schedule.

State Representative Doug Yongue, who attended the grand opening of Rebound, indicated that \$20,000 from the local legislative delegation was on its way to Historic Properties to help with its mission.

Commissioner John Alford thanked the volunteers on behalf of the Scotland County Commissioners for the work they do to preserve and care for the community's historic sites.

Post Scripts

Brittany Jones, daughter of **Willette C. Jones**, DSS, will serve as a National Council Delegate to the Girl Scouts of the USA National Council Meeting October 7 to 9 in Atlanta. Brittany was selected to serve by Pines of the Carolina Girl Scout Council. ✂ Congratulations to **Deanna Carlyle** for being selected as EMS employee of the month for September, sponsored by **Mac Tucker**. ✂ In Health Department news: Welcome to **Jannett Lamourt**, translator/processing assistant. **Debra Kersey** had a great deal to celebrate on her birthday September 8, which happened to be the same day her granddaughter, Norrah Madelyn Walters, was born. Best wishes to **Mary Hambright**, nurse practitioner, and **Sylvia Hughes**, processing assistant, on their retirement. Mary served with the agency more than 30 years providing care in the prenatal and family planning clinics, while Sylvia served with the agency more than 17 years. Both employees were recognized at a luncheon September 30 at the Clinton Inn. We wish them the best. They will be missed. Speedy recovery to **Robin Quick**, **Angela Moore**, **Pearlene Leggett**, **Lisa Locklear** and **Terena Taylor**.

Condolences to **Nancy Hughes**, Tax Office, on the death of her aunt, to **Judy O'Brien**, Health Department, on the death of her uncle and to **Debra Kersey**, Health Department, on the death of her father.



Healthy Carolinians sponsored an All-America Mile Walk, which attracted more than 30 adults and children. Rep. Garland Pierce and Laurinburg Mayor Ann Slaughter made opening remarks.

<p>EMStatistics EMS Report for August: Responded to 404 Medical/Trauma calls Treated 21 motor vehicle accident patients Provided 3 medical coverages Administered 95 wellness/blood pressure checks Sold 31 blue address signs 911 Report Highlights: Received 1,839 total calls 377 EMS 329 Sheriff's Department</p>	<p>124 Laurinburg Police Department 45 Fire Department 529 hang-up calls 146 wrong numbers 61 open line calls 1,013 cellular calls Weather Observations (EMS Recordings) Temp (high) 93 on 8/1,26 Temp (low) 65 on 8/21 Wind (mph) 20 on 8/30 Rainfall (inches) .51 on 8/14 Compiled by Tommy Hatcher</p>
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DSS offers energy assistance

The low income energy assistance program (LIEAP) is available. Those who may qualify for an energy check must meet the income guidelines and are responsible for paying their own heating source.

Those currently receiving Food Stamps as of September 30 with certification through October 2005 or later and meet all LIEAP guidelines will automatically receive an energy check in February.

All other households can apply for the check during the November 7 to 18 application period at the Scotland County Department of Social Services.

No appointment is necessary. Applications will be taken 8 a.m. to 12 p.m. and 1 p.m. to 4 p.m. according to last name on the following days: **A-F - Monday; G-P - Tuesday (except M); Q-Z - Wednesday; M - Thursday; Open - Friday.**

Applicants must bring the following information: identification for head of the household, Social Security number and birthdays for all household members, heating bill for October, bank statement for October and October income.