

Scotland County

Monthly



SEPTEMBER 2009

A newsletter for Scotland County employees

Recycling pilot program begins at 507 West Covington Street



More of this means less of this

A pilot recycling program has been implemented at 507 West Covington Street.

"The intent is to turn Covington Street into a near zero garbage producer where we can have just one small bag of trash that leaves this building every day that is carried to the landfill by Bobby (Solid Waste Enforcement Officer J.R. Horne)," said County Engineer Jim Blackwell.

Covington Street employees are asked to recycle all office paper — typing paper, copy paper, letterhead, forms, calendars, tablet paper, envelopes — along with plastic bottles, aluminum cans, plastic bags, newspapers, magazines and cardboard.

"Pretty much anything that is on your desk — even the metal — all of that is recyclable," explained Blackwell.

All recyclables can be comingled in the bins. The items do not have to be separated.

Recycling exceptions are containers that still have food or beverages in them and have not been cleaned, styrofoam and paper towels. "There is no market for styrofoam right now, and paper towels run the risk of live bacteria, so we have a hygienic problem there," Blackwell explained.

"The Covington Street building was selected because it has the smallest number of employees and it will be easy to manage," said Blackwell.

"Any mistakes that we make, and we will make mistakes, will be small. We'll be able to deal with them and learn from the small mistakes so they won't become big mistakes," Blackwell added.

"This is the beginning of a countywide recycling program designed to

[see Recycling, page 2](#)

Emails of "Thank You" abundant in first month

Helpful actions large and small were recognized this past month as "Thank You" emails were shared with the County Manager and Human Resources Administrator.

Ten County employees were thanked in September, the kick off month of the program, for their quick thinking, thoughtfulness and can-do attitude.

Each employee thanked received a candy bar and a note of appreciation hand-written and hand-delivered by County Manager Kevin Patterson.

Cooperative Extension thanked its own Annie Freeman and David Morrison for their quick action during a recent fire in the Annex.

"Without their team effort the damage to the building would have been a lot more extensive and could have negatively impacted more people," the email stated.

Commended for outstanding work during an OSHA inspection were Billy Bostick, Patricia Campbell, Jim Blackwell and Mike McGirt of Public Buildings. Their

[see Thank You, page 3](#)

Hundreds celebrate dedication



Soccer teams parade on to the field to await the signal to play.

More than 500 young athletes, their families and friends, coaches and volunteers and spectators showed up at the James L. Morgan Recreation Complex to officially open the soccer fields for games.

Countdown to the ceremony actually began 30 years earlier when community leaders first discussed the possibility to provide a dedicated space for soccer games.

[see Soccer, page 4](#)

Fundraiser activities benefit Relay for Life



Sharon English and Cathy Graham, Cooperative Extension, and Patsy Whitehead, Health, left to right, consider their silent auction bid options.

The Health Department is one of the top fundraisers for the Relay for Life event.

“We couldn't have done it without everyone's participation,” said Lynda McMillan, Chair for the agency's team.

The Health Department is not far from its goal of \$3,000 with \$2,648 raised so far.

The agency's recent silent auction and bake sale helped raise \$1,593 thanks to the donation by Health Department employees of numerous gift and household items and baked good.

The agency already was credited with \$1,055 in monies raised. McMillan is confident the goal will be surpassed.

The local Relay for Life is scheduled for the first weekend in October at Pate Stadium.

the Birthday list for October

1 Elliott Brown (Health); 3 Shannon Newton (Parks and Recreation) and Kathryn McMillan (DSS); 4 Patsy Whitehead (Health), Keith Deese (Sheriff) and Timothy Haggans (Public Works); 8 Robert Bowen (Administration) and William Grant (Sheriff); 11 Roy Chavis (EMS); 12 Liston Watts (Library); 13 Tammy Odom (Health) and Kim Brayboy (Tax); 17 Jenny Oxendine (EMS); 18 Russell Lester (EMS); 19 Tessie Cousar (Health) and Marion Locklear (Sheriff); 20 Ashley Gibson (EMS); 21 Frances McLean (DSS); 22 Vanessa Jefferson (EMS), Rachel Beach (Inspections) and Alicia Krout (Parks and Recreation); 23 Teresa Herring (Health), Cory Baldwin (EMS) and Beverly Wranosky (DSS); 24 George Britt (Sheriff); 25 Debra Maske (Health); 26 Danny Sprouse (Health); 27 Charles Nichols (Administration) and Belinda Norton (Library); 28 Edna Shearer (Health) and Margaret Uncapher (Library); 29 Thomas Milligan (Inspections) and Carl Dawkins (Public Buildings); 31 Tommy Hatcher (EMS) and Antonia Rainer (DSS).

Second week in October set aside to recognize Physician Assistants



The week of October 6 to 12 would be a good time to acknowledge and thank Health Department Physician Assistants Michealle Reece, BS, PA-C and Rebecca Snyder, MS, PA-C. The week has been set aside by the American Academy of Physician Assistants to recognize Physician Assistants (PAs).

PAs deliver health care in many venues, such as in health department clinics, private practices, free medical clinics and as part of education, research and administrative services.

Reece has eight years of service with the Scotland County Health Department while Snyder has been involved with the agency for three years.

The PA profession began in North Carolina in 1965 when Duke University Medical Center admitted its first class composed of Vietnam Navy Corpsmen Veterans.

Dr. Eugene Stead, the father of this new profession, developed the curriculum after his fast track training of doctors during World War II. Duke University PA Program graduated the first class of PAs October 6, 1967.

Today there are more than 79,000 graduates of PA Programs throughout the United States. Physician Assistants are a medical model designed to work within a Physician —PA relationship. They exercise autonomy in medical decisions within their scope of practice.

State Licensing includes: graduation from an accredited physician assistant program; passing the national certifying board exam; logging 100 hours of continuing medical education every two years and passing the national certifying board exam every six years.

Post Scripts

Congratulations to **Tiffany Flowers**, Administration, on the September 3 birth of son Izaak-James Kedar Flowers. ✂ **Dell Parker** and **Jerry Johnson** and Board of Elections Chair **Janna Wegner** passed the State exam to become Certified North Carolina Elections Administrators. ✂ Social Services welcomed **Donna Young** as the newest member on the DSS Board. Young is executive director of the Community Health Clinic. ✂ **Annie Freeman** was named 2009 Secretary of the Year by the NC Cooperative Extension Secretaries Association South Central District.



Annie Freeman

Our condolences to **Robert Bowen**, Administration, on the September 9 death of his mother-in-law, Jennie Smith. Ms. Smith also was sister-in-law to **Theresa Eddins**, Register of Deeds. We extend our sympathies to **Raymond Moody**, Parks and Recreation, on the September 12 passing of his stepfather, Frank Ingram. Mr. Ingram was the husband of **Dalores Ingram**, former Elections Board chair. Our condolences to **Nicki Peek**, Health, who lost her mother, Janet Eades, September 16. Condolences to Commissioner **Betty Blue Gholston** on the September 22 passing of her cousin Bessie Mae Leak.

Recycling project tested for expansion

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protect the environment and lower the cost of transporting waste out of the area,” explained Blackwell. “We can do away with our dumpsters.”

He added, “I'm sure that would put something back in the County's pocket.”

The Covington Street recycling program will be monitored for its effectiveness before it is introduced in all other government buildings.

Blackwell hopes a successful pilot will eventually make way for a countywide policy emphasizing recycling rather than trashing.

“My initial observation has been very positive and we've cut down to a very insignificant amount of garbage that's going out the back door.”

Blue recycle containers are located in the copy/mail room, break room, small conference room, adjoining large conference room, enclosed conference room and in the Inspections reception area.

Thank you notes sent via email

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work was “outstanding,” wrote Human Resources Administrator Susan Butler. “We came through without a citation.”

Cooperative Extension thanked McGirt for “his friendly demeanor, positive attitude and professionalism.”

“We would like to commend him with excellent customer service skills,” stated the agency.

Tim Martin in Administration was thanked by Butler for “always being willing to help set up for the Customer Service Training” and Risk Manager Tiffany Flowers for “helping with the DSS Safety Recognition Breakfast.”

Nicole Robinson in DSS thanked coworker Jeannie Freeman. Robinson said she had some blood work done that caused her to become light-headed. “During her (Freeman’s) lunch break, she brought me some fruit to ease the after affects,” Robinson wrote.

Faye Connelly at Public Works thanked Solid Waste Enforcement Officer Bobby Horne and Purchasing Agent Gail Wright. “I really appreciate all you do” Connelly said.

Butler said the program is still being developed but the outpouring of emails is an excellent indication that it already is working as employees take note of the commendable actions of their coworkers.

“Someone took the time to specifically thank these people,” Butler said. “I also would like to take a second to thank each and every one of you.”

She explained, “Even when no one seems to notice or care, you make a positive impact on someone’s life everyday. For that, I say thank you.”

Send thank you emails to thankyou@scotlandcounty.org when another employee did or said something to lighten your workload or your frame of mind.

Thankyou@scotlandcounty.org also is located on the Employment page of the County website.

Local service members to get care packages

The Veteran Service Office is gathering items for care packages to send to County residents serving in Iraq and Afghanistan. The packages will be shipped from Fort Bragg to the service member(s).

“When a service member gets a package, they put the items in the supply room and share with everyone in the unit,” said Veteran Service Officer Mildred Williams.

Williams is compiling a list of addresses for local men and women in military service. The National Guard is a reliable source, but Williams depends mostly on family members.

She explained that soldiers get attached to other units once overseas and are not all together. “I have found it is hard to get a service member’s mailing address overseas unless I get it from someone in their family,” she said.

Williams asks families and friends of service members to contact her so up-to-date information can be compiled and care packages sent.

Deliver care package items to the Veteran Service office at 311 Yarkin Avenue, or call 277-2597 to arrange donation pick up.

Suggested items include toiletries, candy (no chocolate), microwave popcorn, powdered drinks, chewing gum, nuts and trail mixes, disposable cameras, playing cards and handheld games, sunglasses, prepackaged cookies, current magazines, batteries, prepaid phone cards, lip balm, sunscreen, beef jerky, razors, coffee packets, cotton tips, foot powder, plastic zipper bags, small cans of fruit and/or meat and letters and notes of appreciation.

EMStatistics

EMS Report for August:

Responded to 381 Medical/Trauma calls

Treated 40 total traffic accident patients

Administered 101 wellness/blood pressure checks

Sold 21 blue address signs

911 Report Highlights:

358 EMS

339 Sheriff’s Department

318 Laurinburg Police Department

36 Fire Department

968 hang-up calls

79 wrong numbers

52 open line calls

1,904 cellular calls

3,939 total calls to 911

Top five complaints for EMS

Response

70 sick person (specific diagnosis)

40 traffic accidents

35 breathing problems

35 transfer/interfacility/palliative

care

33 chest pain

Weather Observations

(EMS Recordings)

Temp (high) 100 on 8/10

Temp (low) 67 on 8/25

Wind (mph) 20 on 8/22

Rainfall (inches) 1.4 on 8/25

Compiled by Tommy Hatcher

County hosts Health Fair in four locations



Readings for glucose, cholesterol, body mass index and blood pressure weren’t the only features of the 2009 Health Fair.

Employees who attended one of the four events received information on the County’s dental plan, the Employee Assistance Program (EAP) and workplace ergonomics.

Pictured, Judy McMillan, Health Department, gets pointers on ergonomic exercises for the hand and wrist from Stuart Darden, Risk Control Specialist with the NC Association of County Commissioners.

The Health Fair was coordinated by Cigna, the County’s new health insurance provider, and administered by clinical staff from Scotland Memorial Hospital.

The Fair went mobile with one event each at the Sheriff’s Office and West Covington Street and two at the Health Department. The different locations were established to maximize participation and to minimize inconvenience to employees.

Introductions & transitions

Welcome to those individuals who joined Scotland County departments since July 16, 2009: **Amanda Cooke**, Tax and **Carrie Edwards**, part-time with EMS.

Deputy Commanding General of Forces Command visits area

Lieutenant General Joseph F. Peterson, Deputy Commanding General/Chief of Staff of U.S. Army Forces Command, praised Scotland County as an open and welcoming community, one that might reap economic and development benefits from BRAC.

The remarks were made by LTG Peterson during an 11-county BRAC Region visit to acquaint himself with the area and to meet elected officials and community leaders.

LTG Peterson said top level officials will be looking for a community where they might retire, and Scotland County is attractive for its open space, proximity to golf

courses, comprehensive medical facilities, smaller learning academies at the high school and equestrian activities.

LTG Peterson attended numerous meetings and events over a three-day period that included an informal gathering at Richmond Community College where officials from Montgomery, Richmond and Scotland counties spoke one-on-one with LTG Peterson.

The RCC meet-and-greet was followed by a windshield tour of Richmond and Scotland Counties.

Economic Developer Greg Icard said the Scotland County windshield tour showcased St. Andrews Presbyterian College, Scotland Memorial Hospital, the downtown Laurinburg business district and Laurinburg-Maxton Airport.

An informal dinner at McDuff's gave Scotland County representatives opportunity to listen to a BRAC update and ask questions about the role the community will play in future base realignment activities.

Soccer fields officially open

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Dedication, community support and collaboration from that time forward made the September 13 opening of the soccer fields a reality.

Parks and Recreation Director Shannon Newton described the achievement as a celebration of the County's youth.

Contributors were recognized and thanked in the ceremony preceding the count down to play.

The Board of Commissioners, Parks and Recreation Foundation, Parks and Recreation Advisory Committee, City of Laurinburg and the Tourism Development Authority were instrumental in building momentum and bringing the project to fruition.

"Whenever there is a need in our community, we pull together and answer that need, and this complex is a demonstration of that," said Commissioner Guy McCook. McCook also serves as chairman of the Parks and Recreation Advisory Board.

News of Note

Vision Van makes first-time visit October 10

The 21st Century Vision Van will make a first-time visit to Scotland County October 10. The visit coincides with the John Blue Cotton Festival. Sponsored by the NC Lions Foundation, Inc, the eye screenings will be conducted in the van, which will be parked in the Social Services parking lot from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Screenings only will be conducted. They should not be confused with a full eye exam. No diagnoses are made on the van. Screenings include visual acuity (both far and near vision), a field vision test (how well a person can see motion in their field of vision while looking at a fixed object and a pressure check (for the possibility of glaucoma). The service is provided on a first come, first serve basis. Participants must be at least six years of age. All participants under the age of 18 must have a parent or guardian sign the registration form.

Vote early option made available

The Elections office has posted information on the upcoming absentee by mail period and also on the one-stop voting hours. Absentee by mail request dates are October 2 through October 27. Absentee mail-in ballots are due by 5 p.m. November 2. One-stop voting hours are 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. October 15 through October 31 each day. October 31 is the exception with one stop vote hours from 8 a.m. to 1 p.m. October 31 is the only Saturday for one-stop early voting.

Working women workout weekly

It's never too late to catch up with the Working Women's Workouts. Although the third six-week session began Monday, September 21, those who wish can join at any time. Participants put on their athletic shoes Mondays, Tuesdays and Thursdays from 5 p.m. to 6 p.m. at Scotland Place.

Help identify community health needs

County residents have a voice in identifying the health needs of the community. It's as simple as filling out the 2009 Health Opinion Survey, a four-page, multiple choice document. The survey, known as the Community Health Assessment (CHA), is conducted every four years by local public health agencies. The CHA process engages multiple agencies, organizations and the community in identifying and evaluating health issues. Results help the local health department, other agencies and local governments develop plans, policy and budgets for future health-related initiatives. Information provided in the survey is strictly confidential. Scotland County residents are encouraged to participate. Surveys are available at the Health Department.

Celebrate National 4-H Week

Scotland County 4-H will celebrate National 4-H Week, October 4 to 10, with a variety of events and activities. In 4-H, kids find their true passions, gain confidence and give back to the community. For details, call 277-2422. In the photo, Hannah Ammons, left, and two other 4-Hers help with a community project at the State 4-H Congress.



Laurinburg City Councilmember Tommy Parker, left, speaks with LTG Peterson at an informal dinner.

