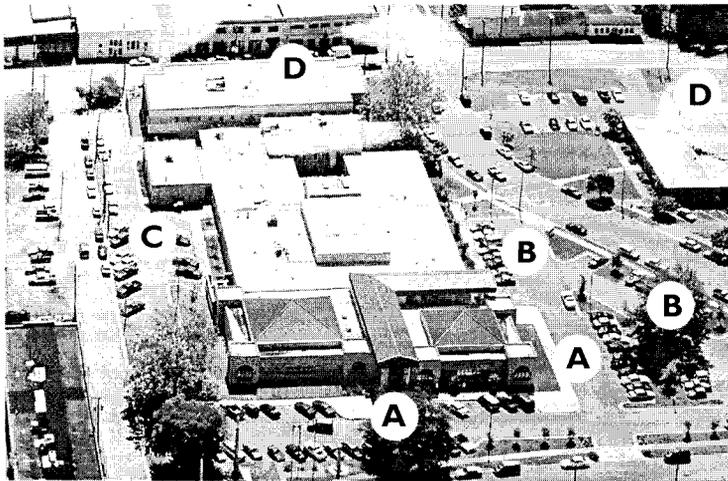




SCOTLAND COUNTY MONTHLY

AUGUST 2001

A newsletter for Scotland County employees



New parking assignments take affect September 4, as do new security procedures at the County Courthouse. Parking assignments are as follows:

- A. Visitors
- B. Staff
- C. Sheriff's Department, Judges and Attorneys*
- D. State and County Vehicles**

* Those restricted court personnel who have been issued magnetic swipe cards by Judge B. Craig Ellis.

** State and County vehicles park on James Street and behind the County Annex (not pictured).

Courthouse security and new parking procedures go into affect

Visitors and most staff who work in the County Courthouse will enter and exit the facility from a single location on Biggs Street. Four other entrances will be secured.

The issue of security first arose five years ago when Superior Court Judge B. Craig Ellis was told an individual with a pistol had entered a courtroom. Although the individual left without incident, Judge Ellis initiated discussions with the Board of Commissioners to develop a security plan.

Effective September 4, the Courthouse will be equipped with a security system, the result of a series of on-site

assessments by security specialists.

Two entrances on Cronly Street, one on James Street and one on Monroe Alley will be secured and fitted with panic bars. Anyone who attempts to leave or to let someone in through those doors will set off an alarm connected by a 15-second delay system to the Dispatcher's Office.

The panic bars also are connected to the building's fire alarm. All doors automatically will open in the event of a fire.

The Biggs Street entrance is equipped with a Magnascanner, a walk-through metal detector, where Sheriff's deputies will

see *Courthouse*, page 4

Why change the name?

It's no longer *Scotland Scoop*, it's *Scotland County Monthly*. Some of you have asked why the name is different. Since the entire format of the newsletter changed, it seemed fitting that the name change as well.

Included in the new look are regular columns,

see *Newsletter*, page 4

THERE'S MORE INSIDE

New life for old school .. page 3

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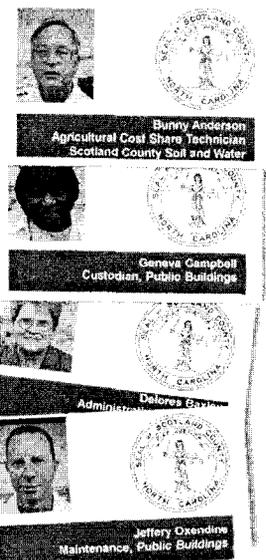
County ID badges issued to employees, attorneys

Identification badges were issued last week to County employees and Courthouse personnel. Although they will be particularly important for people who work in or visit the Courthouse regularly, County employees will be expected to wear the IDs at work.

Effective September 4, the new security system will be in place. People entering the Courthouse will walk through a Magnascanner at Biggs Street, the only entrance now open to the public.

Those wearing Scotland County IDs will be

see *Badges*, page 2



County badges distributed widely

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waved through the Magnascanner by Sheriff's Deputies assigned to the Biggs Street entrance.

As a courtesy to attorneys, judges and law enforcement officials who visit the Courthouse regularly from Scotland and neighboring Counties, ID badges are available to them as well.



Health Educator Stephanie McDonald prepares to take a photo of Jane Callahan, Register of Deeds.

Health Educator Stephanie McDonald processed more than 200 IDs last week in preparation for the September 4 deadline.

Employees from the Health Department, DSS and EMS, who already have IDs, need not get new ones.

The Clerk of Court also will distribute short-term, disposable IDs to jurors and visiting Superior Court judges.

Lost badges will be replaced by appointment. Call ext. 3191.

the Birthday list September

1 Lee Hecht (Sheriff) and Felisa Lockey (DSS); 2 Cathy Graham (Extension); 5 Anita Nelson (DSS); 9 Mike Kimbrell (Sheriff); 10 Jeannie Freeman (DSS); 11 Deborah Rogers (Health); 12 Dan Skamperle (Sheriff) and Bonnie Norton (Public Buildings); 14 Gloria Duncan (DSS); 15 Vicky McPherson (DSS); 16 Robin Barrington (Jail) and Nancy Hughes (Tax); 18 Susan Butler (Administration); 21 Victoria Stribling (Extension); 22 Jane Callahan (Register of Deeds); 26 J.R. Blalock (Sheriff); 27 Shirley Grooms (Health); 28 Rebecca Kimbrell (DSS) and Doris Smart (Inspections); 29 Lynda McMillan (Health).

Notes from the County Manager

Greetings. Security in the Courthouse takes affect September 4. Security has been an issue for some time, particularly for those individuals who spend much of their day working in the Courthouse. The new system will ensure their safety and the safety of our visitors. Courthouse officials, the Board of Commissioners and I hope the security measures will help curb loitering by individuals who have no business to conduct there. Loitering means overcrowding, and it is a valid concern for County employees with offices there, as well as judges, attorneys and law enforcement personnel. The judicial process will operate smoothly and more efficiently once security procedures are in place and enforced.



Scott Sauer

ID cards have been issued. The reason is two-fold. Employees wearing IDs can enter the Courthouse without having a long wait to pass through the Magnascanner. The IDs also indicate our commitment to service. Citizens who need your assistance will know who you are, and they will know you are there to serve them. If you do not have an ID, please call ext. 3191 to arrange for one.

Any inconvenience created by the new system is a small price to pay when it comes to safety. As for parking, walking that extra half block or more allows visitors the convenience of parking close to the main entrance. It all gets back to service...

As I mentioned last month, the Commissioners intend to look at the County budget by department. Their goal is to provide affordable ways to serve the taxpayer without compromising service.

Commissioner assignments include Chairman David Burns; Administrative, Vice Chair Nancy Shelley, EMS and Fire Departments; Commissioner John Cooley, Law Enforcement; Commissioner Lloyd Hinson, Parks and Recreation; Commissioner Sam Snowdon, Planning and Inspections, Commissioner Sutherland, DSS; and Commissioner Willis, Health. I would like to thank you in advance for your cooperation over the next several months as the Commissioners seek information and ask questions about your departments. It will pave the way for efficient budget preparation next year.

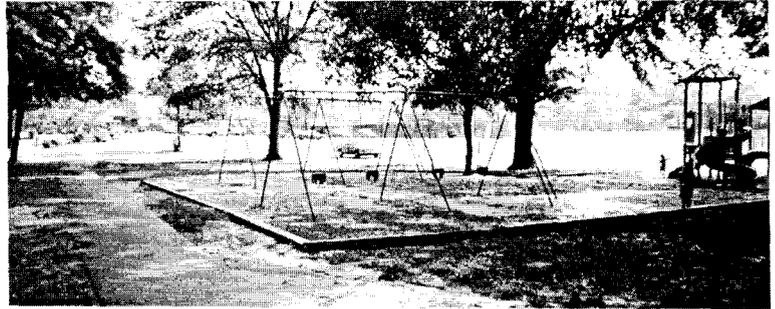
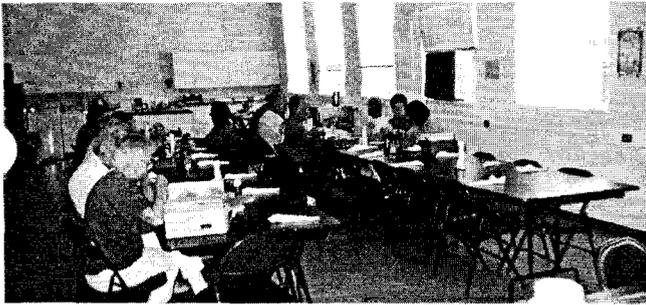
Introductions & transitions

Welcome to the people who have joined Scotland County Departments from June to July: **Karen Altomare**, Health; **Billie Jo Phillips**, Tax; **Sharon English**, 4-H Program Associate, Extension; and **Rebecca Stricklen**, Parents as Teachers, Extension.

Congratulations to the following on their employment transitions: **Precious Byrd**, made permanent part-time, Extension; **Katie Harris**, transferred from Health to DSS; **Wanda Britt**, from permanent part-time to full-time, Transportation; **Ronnie Fields**, from temporary part-time to permanent full-time, Public Buildings; and **Farrah Sheppard**, transferred from Structured Day to Juvenile Counseling, Extension. Congratulations and best wishes to **Clinton McRae**, on his new appointment as Director of Cooperative Extension Services at Hoke County. McRae served as Family and Consumer Educator for Scotland County's Cooperative Extension.

Reminder...

If you're unsure whether your medical provider is included in the network directory, check it out at www.bcbsnc.com. Click on "members" and then "provider search," or call Susan Butler at ext. 2403 to ask about a specific provider. The network directory is updated on a regular basis.



Counterclockwise from the top, a panoramic view of the Laurel Hill Community Center; the LCOG nutrition program for senior citizens; the community center sign; an RCC classroom in the annex.

Laurel Hill Primary School remodeled to serve as a community center

The former Laurel Hill Primary School may not be a home away from home for public school children anymore, but education is still at the heart of the facility. It has a new life as a community center with a focus on education, social activities, nutrition and athletics.

When the school closed several years ago to make way for a new, larger facility at another location, the County assumed responsibility for Laurel Hill Primary, and Public Buildings went to work.

Although the main school building was torn down, Laurel Hill's administrative offices, auditorium, gymnasium and a three-classroom annex were remodeled for alternative uses. Hardwood floors were sanded and refinished, the gymnasium remodeled, the classrooms renovated. Once the interior was refurbished, the Public Buildings staff moved to the surrounding grounds.

With the installation of two little league ballfields in July, improvements to the community center are just about complete. Also on the grounds are a 30- by 40-foot playground area complete with swings and a paved walking path around the perimeter of the school grounds (two laps equal one mile).

Laurel Hill Community Center is used by Richmond Community College, Juvenile Justice, Structured Day, 4-H and Parents as Teachers. LCOG provides meals daily to senior citizens. The auditorium and large conference room are available for meetings and social and entertainment events.

The County rarely had to seek outside help on the project as about 90 percent of all improvements and renovations were done by the Public Buildings staff.

Facing challenges of the Lumber River

Team work and leadership skills were put to the test as Department heads took a seven-mile canoe/kayak trek down the Lumber River. A lack of rain and low water levels made the trip particularly challenging for the 16 participants.

The group, both experienced and inexperienced, spent nearly five hours navigating the Lumber River. Often faced with the difficult and strenuous task of negotiating fallen trees, the group set out doing what it was supposed to do -- support and assist when others needed it.

Pictured at the bottom, the group helps others over an obstruction. Parks and Recreation Director Shannon Newton takes a spill, top.

County Manager Scott Sauer is planning another trip, and you could be a participant. *Details on page 4.*



PostScripts

Latonya McCollum, Parents as Teachers Coordinator, attended a training session in Columbia, SC, where she received her 0 to 3 certification in the Parents as Teachers program. ♦ **Jenni Blackwell**, daughter of Beth and **Jim Blackwell**, was featured in the August 3 edition of *The Laurinburg Exchange* for her efforts preparing heifers for national competition. Jenni's cows, Vanity Fair, Miss Jenni and Danny, all received awards at the Black Heels Gold Junior Classic in Rapid City, SD. ♦ **Jan-Marie Fesmire**, DSS Personnel Assistant, writes, "With regards to the e-mail addresses, I feel it is important to let you know that standardized e-mail addresses for Scotland County employees using the first letter of the employee's first name followed by the employee's last name is unfortunately not the case. There are sometimes more than one person with the same last name, and their first name begins with the same letter, thus it's time to get creative. At DSS we have three elocklears: Elfeda Locklear, elflocklear; Ethena Locklear, elocklear; and Eva Locklear, evalocklear. Just thought we should pass this information on to you for future reference." ♦ **Bunny Anderson** attended the Soil Conservation Society Meeting in Myrtle Beach, August 6 to 8. ♦ **Mildred Williams**, Assistant Veterans Service Officer, successfully completed the Veterans Service Certification Course and is now accredited to represent the North Carolina Division of Veterans Affairs and is authorized to present claims before the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs. ♦ Gov. Michael Easley has appointed Veterans Service Officer **Robert Sanford** to the North Carolina Veterans Affairs Commission. ♦ Finance Officer **Charles Williams** attended the 2001 Annual Summer Conference of the North Carolina Government Finance Officers Association, July 22 to 24, in Wrightsville Beach. ♦ **Lynn Poe**, County Manager's Office, discussed her experiences with the Parents as Teachers Program and how it has benefitted her and her three-year-old daughter, Megan. Poe spoke to about a dozen people who are involved in support groups for children. ♦ Look for County Commissioner **Clint Willis** in a local Dieffenbach commercial praising the service the dealership provides. ♦ The County extends its heartfelt sympathy to the family of Commissioner **Jim "Sunbeam" Sutherland**, whose mother passed away August 17.

Be part of the river trip experience

You're invited to join County Manager Scott Sauer for a canoe/kayak trip on the Lumber River. Enthusiasm, not experience, is the only requirement. Sauer will select 15 names at random to join him for the adventure. If you wish to be part of the river trip drawing, call ext. 3191 or ext. 2406 by September 30 to submit your name. Employees selected for the Lumber River trip will be contacted in early October as to the date and specifics of the trip.

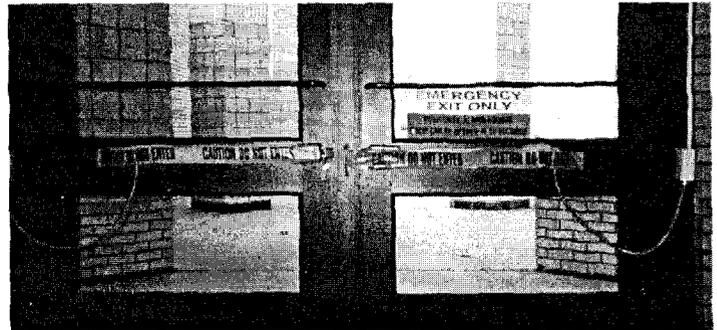
Scotland County Monthly is published by the County Manager's Office to provide news and information to employees. Comments, suggestions and story ideas are welcome. Contact 277-3191 or akurtzman@scotlandcounty.org.

Courthouse security takes affect

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enforce Courthouse security and carry hand-held metal detectors.

Use of the Monroe Alley entrance is limited to authorized judges, Sheriff's Department personnel, and District Attorney and Public Defender staff.



Emergency exit only. The doors on the Cronly Street side of the Courthouse, plus three other doors will now open only in case of emergency.

New parking procedures also will take affect September 4. Visitors will park in the Biggs Street lot as well as the small parking area on Cronly closest to the main entrance.

"People who visit the Courthouse to take care of business there should be able to park as close to the main entrance as possible," explained County Manager Scott Sauer. "It's customer service." Sauer said he hopes Courthouse employees keep that in mind and use the parking areas reserved for them on Cronly Street (shown on the photograph on Page 1).

Those assigned magnetic swipe cards will be expected to park at Monroe Alley. James Street and the area behind the County Annex are designated for State and County vehicles.

People working in the Courthouse after hours will still be able to enter using their keys or magnetic swipe cards.

"All the hard work has finally paid off," said Judge Ellis. He said it was his hope the Scotland County Courthouse would offer security equal to that of the systems in place at the Fayetteville and Moore County courthouses. "I'll feel good when I go to the Courthouse Tuesday. It has become a safer place for everyone."

Newsletter format, name changed

continued from page 1

PostScripts, *Introductions & Transitions*, *Notes from the County Manager* and *The Birthday List*. The last two items are self explanatory. Scotland County employees are encouraged to submit information for the *Introductions & Transitions* and *PostScripts* columns.

Read about new employees, their promotions, departmental transfers and transitions from part-time to full-time status in *Introductions & Transitions*. *PostScripts* focuses on employee news items that would be of interest to co-workers -- marriages, births, attendance at workshops and conferences and personal milestones.

News for either of these columns is welcome, as are story ideas. If you would like to write an article or submit news items, please e-mail akurtzman@scotlandcounty.org, or call ext. 3191.

Scotland County Monthly is written, designed and printed in-house at a cost of about 6 cents per newsletter.