

SCOTLAND COUNTY MONTHLY

AUGUST 2004

A newsletter for Scotland County employees

Agency accepts "healthy" challenge

by Andy Kurtzman, Healthy Carolinians

In response to Governor Mike Easley challenge, the Health Department and Healthy Carolinians will offer a series of activities during September to encourage employee participation in fitness and wellness programs.

For instance, senior citizens who visit Scotland Place September 3 will receive free cholesterol, glucose and blood sugar screenings, compliments of Health Department staff.

Making your steps count will be a focus each Thursday in September when the community is invited to join in a one-mile walk that begins downtown at Pot Luck. Known as the "All-America Mile," the walk starts at 7:30 a.m. A light breakfast after the

see *Healthy*, page 4

Recycle centers freshened



The Recycle Center in Wagram was one of five refurbished this summer.

The five Scotland County recycle centers were refurbished this summer for the first time since they opened a decade ago.

Building exteriors and offices were repainted, damaged wood was replaced and containers were repaired or replaced. The centers also have new fee schedule signs on all of the buildings.

The \$8,000 project was accomplished at no cost to the taxpayer. It was funded by solid waste and landfill fees. Lighthall Construction of Gibson and Cummings Construction of Maxton were contracted to handle the improvements.

Parks and Recreation gets settled at Scotland Place



Delores Baxley works from the office that once housed the Prescription Assistance Program.

The new Parks and Recreation offices at Scotland Place were a bustle of activity August 23 as staff prepared for cheerleading season.

It's just another day in what has been an extremely busy month for Parks and Recreation staff.

"While our offices were being moved (from the John Blue House) we had football, cheerleading and soccer registration going on at the same time," said Director Shannon Newton.

The Public Buildings staff assisted with the move, which occurred in one afternoon, and ended a 20-year occupancy of the John Blue House by Parks and Recreation.

The Historic Properties Commission has assumed responsibility for the John Blue House. Commission Chair John Stewart and other volunteers are on-call to provide tours to visitors.

All Parks and Recreation phone numbers remain the same. The fax number has changed to 610-1686.

Newton said she and the staff are still going through a period of adjustment.

"Our last day at the John Blue House felt like just another day when we left," said Newton. "What felt strange was not going back."

Commodities program continues

The Food Bank of North Carolina will assume administrative responsibility for the commodities program with local support from Mission Ministries and Northview Harvest Outreach.

The \$5,000 budgeted for the commodities program was eliminated from the FY 2004-2005 budget because it was one of the few non-mandated programs that could be eliminated from the Department of Social Services.

Concerned about continuance of the commodities program, which distributes food staples to citizens who have fallen on hard times, the governing body asked the DSS Board of Directors to recruit a non-profit willing to administer the program.

More than \$36,000 of food staples are distributed to Scotland County residents annually through the United States Department of Agriculture.

THERE'S MORE INSIDE

County employee patents invention page 2

Employee patents invention Hill set to assist foster children

He might not have won the lottery but Larry Herring considers 6,764,202 his lucky number.

The U.S. Patent Office assigned the seven-digit figure to Herring and his wife, Judy, for an item they invented which would perpetually light headstones.

"The Patent Office calls it an Illuminator," said Herring. "It's really a fancy word for a light. We're calling it the Remembrance Glow."

Herring's wife gave him the idea after she paid a visit to her mother's grave at dusk. "My wife said it would be nice to have a light in a dark cemetery — something to light the tombstones."

Herring, the County Animal Control Officer, began work on the project in his free time. His kitchen table became a home office for a variety of materials he would use to design the solar-powered light with rechargeable AA batteries.

After nearly three months of trial and error and a series of outdoor nighttime experiments, Herring developed a workable prototype out of cardboard, tape and wood.

"It's about three inches square and would be made of heavy-duty plastic," Herring explained. "It's designed so it would direct a soft light upwards toward the stone or can be adjusted downwards to light a flat stone."

It also is small enough that it could be placed in vases used at the foot of the headstones.

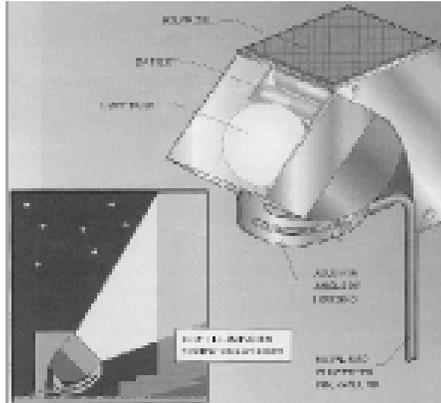
Once the prototype was designed, the patent application process, which included a patent search and the rendering of a final drawing, took more than two years to complete.

Herring worked with Invention Submission Corporation, which now markets the Remembrance Glow.

He said about 20 manufacturing companies have indicated an interest in the product, which is estimated to sell for between \$20 to \$40 retail.

Herring said he would eventually like to see it in stock at WalMart, Lowes, Home Depot, in flower shops and at funeral homes.

Herring and his wife would like to see extra income from the invention, but it was not their original intent. "We wanted to light mother's tombstone out there, and there was nothing on the market that would do that."



The Remembrance Glow is a solar powered light for illuminating a tombstone.

Children placed in Foster Care have little to call their own except the clothes on their back at the time they're removed from the home.

Myra Hill knows firsthand what that's like. "My grandmother raised me. She was a foster parent, and I was raised with foster children."

So when clothing allowance for Foster Children, one of the few non-mandated DSS programs, was cut by \$10,000 for FY 2004-2005, Hill volunteered a possible solution.

She formed Foster Children's Association, doing business as Caring for Kids. With Foster Children's Association now a registered name, Hill is in the process of applying for non-profit, tax exempt status.

Hill, an Administrative Officer at DSS, said money raised through the organization would purchase goods and services not funded by any other source.

Examples include orthodontist care, vacations, summer camp fees and school expenses for sports and band participation, class photos and extracurricular activities. Clothing would be

purchased at the holidays to supplement the clothing allowance line item.

Fundraising plans include raffles and selling 50/50 tickets at Laurinburg After Five. Hill will focus her efforts on fundraising and volunteer recruitment after hours and on weekends.

"All donated funds from Scotland County will support foster children from Scotland County," Hill assured. "Any funds from another county will support foster children in that county."

Hill said while researching alternative solutions she found no organizations formed specifically that supplement the needs of foster children. That's why surrounding areas would possibly benefit from Foster Children's Association.

"I realized no one else seemed to be doing something like this, which is involving foster children in activities that other children are involved in" she said.

Those wishing to make a cash donation or to volunteer are asked to contact Hill at 276-1066 after 6 p.m.

Tickets are available from Cooperative Extension for the 2004 Farm-City Celebration Dinner October 5, 6 to 8 p.m. Tickets are \$10 and include dinner at First United Methodist Church, speaker and humorist Gary Claxton and an ECA fashion show. Call 277-2422 for more information.

EMStatistics

EMS Report for July: Responded to 357 Medical/Trauma calls

Treated 67 motor vehicle accident patients

Provided 12 medical coverages

Conducted 1 department tour

Administered 94 blood pressure checks

911 Report Highlights:

Received 1,424 total calls

338 EMS
251 Sheriff's Department
109 Laurinburg Police Department

20 Fire Department
356 hang-up calls

113 wrong numbers
86 open line calls

747 cellular calls

Compiled by Tommy Hatcher

Introductions & transitions

The following individuals joined Scotland County Departments since June 16: **Michael Norton**, Health and **Shastity Small**, DSS. **Kristin Shoemake** is part-time in EMS. **Alana Richards** and **Bettie Blue** are temporary in the Board of Elections.

Youth compete at Congress

Six youth and two adults from Scotland County were among participants from across the State gathered in Raleigh for the annual North Carolina 4-H Congress in July.

4-H Congress provides youth opportunities to develop leadership skills, increase knowledge of current issues through educational experiences, understand the democratic process, participate in presentations and public speaking, receive recognition for project work and to enjoy fellowship with fellow 4-Hers.

The big day for many of the delegates was July 20 when youth gave presentations — speeches with props — to determine State level winners.

Ashley Bethea, pictured at right, earned the bronze medal in Beef Char Grill for the 11 to 13-year-old division.

Scotland County delegates, as part of a 4-H Hands To Service Project, traveled to the North Carolina Library for the Blind and Physically Handicapped where they were given an orientation of the library and the services it provides.

The youth assisted in various projects such as organizing Braille materials and preparing boxes and labels for shipping.

"It was very interesting learning about all the different materials that the library has to offer," said local 4-H'er Mary Lauren Tardif. "We had fun and learned a lot."

The youth enjoyed tours of the NC History Museum and the NC Museum of Natural Science in addition to attending workshops on topics such as leadership, cultural diversity and parliamentary procedure.

"I enjoyed all the workshops, especially those on cultural diversity," 4-H'er Cherrell Brown said. "It was also great to meet new people and see old friends."



Summer workshops entertain

Youth had ample opportunity to learn new skills participating in the 4-H Summer Fun Workshops. Held in June and July, youth ages 5 to 19 were instructed on healthy eating, arts and crafts, fitness and enjoyed movies, dances, games and a day at the fair.

Pictured, Barbara Lucas, 4-H School Age Child Care Coordinator works with some young participants.



4-H'ers earn medals

The local 4-H delegation earned two gold medals, three silver medals and three bronze medals during the annual District Activity Day competition in Chatham County.

Locally, 25 4-H leaders, members, agents, parents and judges were among hundreds from 14 counties in the South Central District who participated in the annual event.

"We are really proud of our 4-H youth," said Sharon English, Extension Agent for 4-H Youth Development in Scotland County. "All of the Scotland County 4-H'ers placed in the top three in their respective categories."

4-H'ers competed in presentation areas such as cooking, forestry, photography, public speaking, health and safety. Competition also was held in the talent category of 4-H Entertains.

Winning top honors in the district competition were Ashley Bethea in Beef Char-Grill and Mary Lauren Tardif in Public Speaking.

District silver medalists from Scotland County were Irene Davidson in Breads, Brooke Hunter in Public Speaking and D'Angelo Byrd in Veterinary Science.

Bronze medals were presented to Brittany York for Public Speaking, Daquan Chavis and Shautel Chavis for Dairy Foods and Shanice Daniels for Dairy Foods.

District gold winners represented Scotland County at the State level competition held during the North Carolina 4-H Congress.



4-H participants include front, left to right, Daquan Chavis, D'Angelo Byrd and Mary Lauren Tardif; middle row, Brooke Hunter, Shautel Chavis, Ilene Davidson and Shanice Daniels; back row, Ashley Bethea, Brittany York and Cherrell Brown.

DSS, Health Department join forces for Relay fundraiser

With \$5,000 as a goal, DSS and Health Department staff will combine efforts for this year's Relay for Life, 9 a.m. Saturday, October 16 to 9 a.m. Sunday, October 17. The community-wide event will be at Pate Stadium.

Fundraisers include: 50/50 raffle tickets for \$1 each; a raffle for four separate gift certificates to the Gill House for \$1 each; the sale of large purple Relay For Life vehicle magnets for \$5 each and small pink breast cancer refrigerator magnets for \$3 each.

Luminaries are \$10 each. Forms are available from team captains Lynda McMillan and Kathie Cox at the Health Department

and Regina Smalls, Tim Martin and Kaye McMillan at DSS.

The agencies will sell Krispy Kreme Donuts in September and also will sponsor a Silent Auction on September 30 in the Commissioners Chamber. Viewing will be 11:30 a.m. to 2 p.m. with bidding beginning at 3 p.m. Anyone wishing to donate an item for the Silent Auction may contact the abovementioned team captains.

Those who know cancer survivors — including children — are asked to inform the team captains. There will be a reception for cancer survivors and their caretakers October 14 at the Laurinburg Presbyterian Church Fellowship Hall. A special presentation for child survivors will be included in the reception.

Agency plans month of healthy activities

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walk is being arranged by Laurinburg Downtown Revitalization Corporation. All-America Mile dates are September 2, 9, 16, 23 and 30.

Mini-grants for healthy eating and physical activity policies in churches will be introduced Friday, September 10, during a Faith Wellness Breakfast Workshop.

Pastors and church members throughout Scotland County will be invited to the event sponsored by Health Promotions.

Market Park on Produce Market Road will be the location for the second community walk sponsored by Healthy Carolinians.

Promote walking as a physical activity for better health Sunday, September 12 between 2 and 4 p.m. The event serves to promote the *Great Ex-STEP-tations Walking Program* and is open to the entire community regardless of age. Those using wheelchairs and pushing strollers are invited.

Scotland County citizens are invited to a Nutrition/Healthy Foods program September 14 at 10 a.m. at Scotland Place. Information will be shared on reading labels, portion control, 5-A-Day, cholesterol and HPBtc).

On Tuesday, September 21, Healthy Carolinians will offer training for interested persons who wish to coordinate a Weight Loss Support Program at a local site. The meeting will train the "site coordinators" how to manage their program and to educate and motivate participants to reach their weight loss goals. The meeting is scheduled for 11 a.m. in the Health Department Education Conference Room.

Throughout September, a "Healthy North Carolina Month" will be on display on the Health Department bulletin board. Displays and exhibits will focus on physical activity, good nutrition and health.

Governor Easley has declared September 2004 as *Healthy North Carolina Month* and has challenged all 100 counties to participate by sponsoring health promotion, wellness or disease prevention activities during the month.

The goal of *Healthy North Carolina Month* is to raise awareness about health issues and encourage North Carolina citizens to engage in healthy activities.

Post Scripts

Personnel Administrator **Susan Butler** said the County made goal of 30 pints during the August 3 Blood Drive. "Thank you to all who came out to donate. You really made this drive a success," said Butler. ☼ Tax Assessor **Mary Helen Norton** reported that 10 County employees opted to take advantage of paying taxes through payroll deduction this year. ☼ In Health Department news: Best wishes to **Gladys Holmes** and **Maggie Cribb**. We wish **Shirley Grooms** a speedy recovery. Congratulations to **Lisa Tew** on the August 1 birth of her granddaughter, Shaylyn Abigail Tew. ☼ Donna Johnson, daughter of **Sara McQueen**, DSS, completed her basic Navy training in Great Lakes, IL. Donna, a 2004 Scotland High School graduate, will continue training in the medical field during her tour in the Navy. Sarah extends her thanks to all DSS employees who wrote letters of encouragement to Donna during her basic training. According to Sarah, "It really kept her hopes up, even after a week's stay in the hospital and being told she would complete her training in time for graduation. With everyone's prayers, cards and letters, she overcame and graduated on time against the odds." ☼ **Sharon English**, 4-H Agent with Cooperative Extension, received the T. C. Blalock Young Agent Award August 19 in Greensboro, NC. **David Morrison**, Agriculture Agent, celebrated his 50th birthday with Extension staff and friends during a luncheon at Captain Larry's. **Tiffanee Conrad**, Area Livestock Agent, assisted five Scotland County producers in becoming certified members of the North Carolina Meat Goat Producers Cooperative. Hoof trimming, nutrition, selection, body condition scoring and marketing were taught so the members could sell their goats to a local buying station. The Meat Goat Producers Cooperative is expected to purchase an increased number of goats, which would provide producers with additional income. ☼ **Tosha McQueen** will celebrate 16 years of employment with DSS as of September 12. ☼ **Joan Walters** with the Prescription Assistance Program can now be reached at **291-7098**. Her office has been moved from the John Blue House to the Community Health and Rehabilitation Center on the Scotland Memorial Hospital grounds. ☼ The **Seniors Information Telephone Line** at **910-277-2550** provides information about local services in the area and the region. This resource is available Monday to Friday, 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. ☼ **Barbara Lucas**, 4-H School Age Child Care Coordinator, and 4-H Volunteer **Myra Hill** served as chaperones for nine Scotland County youth, who enjoyed a week-long summer camp adventure at the Eastern 4-H Environmental Center in Columbia, NC. ☼ **Parks and Recreation** reports the \$10 fee had no impact on football and cheerleading registration, with 250 cheerleaders and 340 football players registered.



Lacy Blue was awarded a plaque of appreciation during a dinner in honor of his retirement from the Scotland County Area Transit System. Pictured, Blue is surrounded by his Transit System coworkers and friends.

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the Birthday list for September

1 Felisa Lockey (DSS); 2 Keith Hatcher (EMS) and Cathy Graham (Cooperative Extension); 3 Sarah McQueen (DSS); 5 Richard Taylor (Jail), Tommy Butler (Sheriff) and Dr. John Slaughter (Health); 6 Anita Nelson (DSS); 10 Jeannie Freeman (DSS), Billy Campbell (Sheriff) and Lucy Walters (Health); 11 Deborah Rogers (Health); 12 J.C. Dunn and Bonnie Norton (Public Buildings); 14 Carlotta Rivers (Health); 15 Vicky McPherson (DSS); 16 Nancy Hughes (Tax) and Perry Brooks (Jail); 17 Nathan Monroe (Health); 18 Susan Butler (Administration); 19 Pierre Lee (EMS); 20 Angela Moore (Health); 22 Jane Callahan (Register of Deeds); 25 Winnie Robinson (Health); 26 Buddy Blalock and Joshua Byrd (Sheriff); 27 Timothy Hunt (EMS), Jody Smith (Cooperative Extension) and Shirley Grooms (Health); 28 Beckie Kimbrell (DSS), Doris Smart (Inspections), William Evers (EMS) and Melanie Edwards (Parks and Recreation); 29 Lynda McMillan (Health).