

SCOTLAND COUNTY MONTHLY

JANUARY 2003

A newsletter for Scotland County employees

Funding intent made for proposed recreation facility

The proposed comprehensive recreation complex was endorsed by the Board of Commissioners after it agreed to match \$250,000 in funds pending approval of a State grant.

A successful application submission to the Parks and Recreation Trust Fund (PARTF) and Land and Water Conservation Fund (LWCF) could bring \$250,000 to the project and pave the way for Phase One development, estimated at a little more than \$1.5 million.

Derek Williams of Site Solutions, a Charlotte-based architectural firm, reviewed the site analysis and master plan with the Commissioners at its January 6 regular meeting.

The site for the complex is on two parcels of land with a combined 102 acres near the intersection of West Boulevard and South Turnpike Road.

Phase One would include grading and clearing the entire site, most of the infrastructure (i.e. water, sewage, storm drainage), and development of the park entrance, parking for 220 cars, four 320-foot softball fields, which would allow the overlay for the soccer fields and outfield.

Phase One also would provide a restroom, concession and control building in the center of the softball complex, Frisbee golf and portions of the walking trail.

The soccer fields would be graded and seeded but would not be fully developed in Phase One, Williams said.

Shannon Newton, Director of Parks and Recreation, said that once Phase One is completed, 12 tournaments a year on the softball fields and four tournaments a year on the soccer fields would bring in an annual revenue of about \$60,000.

Phase Two would include irrigation, outdoor lighting, expansion of Scotland Place, a 10,000 square-foot Civic Center, a 36,000 square-foot indoor soccer facility, an outdoor pool and splash pad ground and additional picnicking and playgrounds. Total cost for all phases of the recreation complex is \$9.3 million.

Request for the matching funds was brought to the Commissioners by Becca Hughes, Chairman of the Youth Development Task Force. The Task Force also will seek funding from other area organizations.

see Recreation, page 2

**Do your part, and give the gift of life!
American Red Cross Blood Drive
February 4, 1:30 p.m. - 5:30 p.m.
Scotland County Annex**

Public Forum brings surprise



Vice Chair Nancy Shelley steps from behind the Commissioners table to make a presentation during the Public Forum. *Story on page 4.*

Access to GIS data spikes hits to the County website

by Marcus Norton, Planning Director

Daily hits to the www.scotlandcounty.org web page have more than doubled since the Scotland County Geographic Information System (GIS) went on-line January 7.

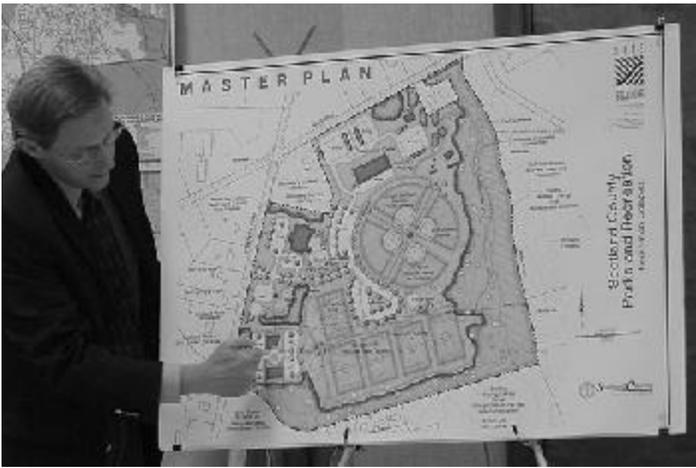
The Scotland County GIS strategy is to offer the general public data normally obtained by trips to the Courthouse or by telephone calls to County staff.

Some glitches still need to be ironed out, though. For instance, more detailed data is available to County staff only, via an internal GIS web page. Currently the Internet-based GIS page is not available from the public site. Once this is resolved, either page will be available.

In the meantime, the link to the Internal ArcIMS site is http://gis_web/website/INTERNAL_GIS. Save it to your favorites or bookmark.

This viewer provides access to a full suite of analysis tools such as measuring, buffering and database searching. The tools are more advanced than those offered on the public site and are well suited for County departmental use.

As GIS continues to develop, expect more functionality tailored to the specific departmental needs.



Derek Williams of Site Solutions discusses the master plan pictured at right.

Commissioners OK fund match for recreation complex

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Approval of intent to provide matching funds came after lengthy discussion about committing \$250,000 during difficult economic times.

Commissioner J. D. Willis cast the only dissenting vote to the request. Although he supports the need for this facility, he felt the timing was wrong. "I could not in good conscience vote to support this project tonight," he said, explaining that there was a greater need to fund recruitment and economic development.

Several Commissioners countered that this would be as good

a time as any. "This is a chance to do something good for Scotland County," said Commissioner Sam Snowdon.

Speaking in favor of the request, Bo Butler, Chairman of the Tourism Development Authority, said the TDA fully supports this project. Butler said softball and soccer complexes would bring a lot of money into the area, based on information gathered from other communities.

"We may not be providing a job in a factory, but we're providing a job in restaurants and motels. Every dollar that comes to Scotland County stays here a while," he said.

the Birthday list for February

1 Michael Osteen (Public Works), Donnie Jackson (PALS) and Betty Blue Gholston (Commissioner); **2** Cynthia Dunn (DSS); **3** Lisa Tew (Health), Anna Smith (EMS) and Woodrow Walters (Sheriff); **8** Al Blades (Parks and Recreation) and Katie Harris (DSS); **12** Bobby Freeman (Sheriff), Mary McLeod (DSS) and Tequilla Smith (Jail); **13** Karlene Ikner (DSS) and Charles Williams (Administration); **14** Yvonne DeBerry (DSS) and Raymond Gates (Sheriff); **15** James Murphy (Sheriff); **16** Tony McQuage (Inspections) and Patricia Brown (Register of Deeds); **17** Joe Knott (DSS); **18** Celeste McRae (DSS), Joel Floyd (EMS) and Clyde Smith (Sheriff); **19** Sandra Skamperle (DSS); **20** Mike Edge and Heather Brock (EMS), Glen Lockey (Public Works) and Teresa Jacobs (DSS); **22** Amy Inniss (DSS); **23** Hyder Massey (Public Buildings); **24** Ann Kurtzman (Administration); **25** Jim Blackwell (Public Works) and Frances Moody (Health); **26** Robin Quick (Health) and Brenda Floyd (EMS); **27** Shirley Howell (Sheriff).

Notes from the County Manager

Greetings. Thank you for the generosity demonstrated during this most recent United Way Campaign. Giving among County employees for 2002-2003 was \$11,737, slightly less than the \$13,493 raised last year.

I'd like to give you an update on some bright points of this campaign.

Six of the 18 County departments gave more this year than last year — Engineering, Cooperative Extension, Health, Public Buildings, Register of Deeds and the Tax Office.

41 employees participated in the Fair Share program by choosing to have one hour's wage a month deducted from their paychecks.

I hope all Fair Share givers enjoy taking the extra day off on their



Scott Sauer

birthdays. You earned it!

DSS Director Jan Elliott offered some giving incentives for her staff, including her assigned parking space.

Anne Laviner will occupy Jan's personal parking space for three months.

Other high donors — Pam Reed, Nicole Yarborough, Kim McRae

and Kaye McMillan — earned additional VIP parking spaces. Adult Services earned a lunch, compliments of Jan, for the highest per capita giving in their unit.

And to Lynn Poe, administrative assistant in my office, thank you for assuming the leadership of the campaign for Scotland County employees. Your hard work made this year another success.

Elections Board Director enjoys a red, white and blue holiday



Outside the White House, Judy Riggins awaits her VIP tour.

Judy Riggins could just feel all her "red, white and blue" coming out during a holiday visit to Washington, DC.

That's far from an understatement for a woman whose office is literally covered with all things patriotic.

Riggins, Board of Elections Director, had a rare opportunity December 28 to take private tour of the White House, replete with holiday ornamentation.

With a Secret Service representative acting as guide, Riggins and a handful of family and friends toured the White House adorned with this year's Presidential

Family theme, "All Creatures Great and Small."

The delectable looking gingerbread house with marzipan animals in the State Dining Room, a tree decorated with handmade birds from all 50 states and another Christmas tree as the centerpiece to the entrance were among the highlights of the tour.

"As you step in the front door, that tree was straight ahead in the Blue Room," said Riggins. "It just seemed to brighten up the whole world."

Riggins noted that security was especially tight, not just at the White House but everywhere. Reservations are now required for a visit to the Washington Monument, for instance.

If you're planning a Washington, DC, visit, Riggins said, "Expect security people to check your bags and pockets. Don't be offended because it's for your own protection."

She added, "Travel light. Don't take anything you won't need because you will be doing a lot of walking. And wear tennis shoes. You'll need them."

BCBSNC changes copayment schedule on some medications

While Claritin is now available over-the-counter and no longer covered by the Blue Cross Blue Shield of North Carolina prescription drugs benefit plan, other non-sedating antihistamines still covered by the plan will require an increased copayment.

Effective January 1, Zyrtec, Zyrtec-D, Allegra, Allegra-D and Clarinex moved from Tier 2 to Tier 3 coverage. The change affects County employees with Blue Options coverage. The copay for these prescriptions increased from the Tier 2 \$25 copay to \$40 at Tier 3.

If you wish to reduce out-of-pocket costs for these medications, BCBSNC suggests asking your physician about possible lower-cost alternatives, including the over-the-counter Claritin.

Other Claritin-related over the counter medications include Claritin-D, Claritin Reditabs and Claritin syrup, all of which are no longer covered by the BCBSNC plan.

On issues of parenting, students 'Think It Over'

by Melissa C. Hopkins, Cooperative Extension

The Baby Think It Over Program has challenged hundreds of students at Sycamore Lane Middle School in the past four years. The abstinence education program teaches students the responsibilities and difficulties of teen pregnancy and birth.

In a week-long class led by Pam Riemer, eighth graders at Sycamore Lane learned about budgeting and caring for an infant. A baby simulator goes home with the student at the end of the week.

The high-tech simulator requires various types of care including feeding, rocking and diaper changes.

"This program educates parents as well as students," said Riemer, Family and Consumer Sciences Extension Agent. "Parents are a part of the program. So many

see Baby, page 4

10-station fitness course installed at Scotland Place



Carol McCall shows Healthy Carolinians board member Andy Kurtzman some warm-up instructions.

Residents who plan to be more active in 2003 can now take advantage of a 10-station fitness course located at Scotland Place. The newly installed Outback Fitness Trail was made available through a \$3,000 Healthy Carolinians grant.

Suitable for all ages, the first four stations are devoted to warm-up activities while the remaining six test strength, endurance, flexibility and balance.

The Outback Fitness Trail is located on the back half of the walking track that encircles Scotland Place. Walking the track four times is equivalent to a mile. Each station provides a chart demonstrating beginner, intermediate and advanced levels in the fitness routine.

Installation of the fitness course, which is available to all Scotland County residents, also coincides with the development of the County's own fitness program, designed to encourage and promote healthy lifestyles among the employees.



Sycamore Lane students tend to their baby simulators.

Baby Think It Over expands

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times students get information from school that is not shared with the parents.

"We have parents at school before the program begins and after the experience. It is a perfect icebreaker, opening the lines of communications for parents and students to talk about a sensitive subject."

The ice was broken recently for parents and students at schools other than Sycamore Lane when Riemer expanded the program to Spring Hill Middle School and East Laurinburg Alternative Learning Academy.

The expansion was made possible through the joint efforts of the Scotland County Center of the North Carolina Cooperative Extension, Scotland County Schools, Scotland County Adolescent Wellness Council and the University of North Carolina at Pembroke. Riemer is optimistic further expansion of the program will continue.

EMStatisticsDecember

EMS Report: Responded to 379 Medical/Trauma calls. **Treated** 54 motor vehicle accident patients. **Provided** 2 stand-by medical coverages. **Made** 1 departmental presentation.

911 Report: Received 1,399 total calls — **323**

EMS — **257** Sheriff's Department — **90** Laurinburg Police Department — **43** Fire Departments — **312** hang-up calls — **136** wrong numbers — **108** open lines calls — **598** Cellular calls — **6** Robeson County — **17** Hoke County.

Congratulations on the marriage of Paramedic **Mac Tucker** to Amy Underwood, December 7, 2002. **Report compiled by Tommy Hatcher.**

Introductions & transitions

Welcome employees who joined County departments since November 16: **Kim Brayboy**, Tax. **Mildred Williams** makes the transition from Veterans Service Assistant to Veterans Service Officer. Congratulations!

Hints on interpreting the W-2

Interpreting the W-2 Wage and Tax Statement can be a challenge. Since the W-2 accompanies the January paycheck, listed below are some items to keep in mind.

Box #1 of the W-2, "Wages, tips and other compensation," will **not** match the gross earnings figure found on your monthly paycheck. That's because the figure in box #1 of the W-2 includes only the amount earned that is subject to federal and state tax withholdings.

Travel, daycare and medical reimbursements and dental, health, retirement and 401K are all pre-tax deductions which are subtracted from the gross amount to arrive at the federal taxable wages found in Box #1.

Boxes #3 (Social security wages) and #5 (Medicare wages and tips) show a figure that is different from the gross earnings and the federal taxable wages.

Social Security, FICA and Medicare are paid on that figure, which is the gross earnings minus travel, dental, health and daycare and medical reimbursements.



Grant Writing Workshop ■ February 13
■ 8:30 a.m. to 5 p.m. ■ County Annex
Conference Room ■ Sponsored by Cooperative
Extension ■ Participants are encouraged to present a
grant idea for which they wish to secure funding

Board Chairman is recognized



Stepping from behind the Commissioners table to speak at Public Forum, Vice Chair Nancy Shelley "tooted the horn" for David Burns while making a presentation to the Chairman.

"We like to toot our horns about things going on that are positive in our County," she said. "I'm going to toot the horn of our Chairman, seeing that he is so selfless and doesn't toot his own horn."

She presented Chairman Burns with a double-spread Research Triangle Park advertisement printed in the December issue of *North Carolina* magazine. Featured is Chairman Burns sitting on the 1953 tractor he purchased for \$1,200. The ad promotes assistance provided by RTP biotechnology firms to the State's farming community.

In presenting the framed gift, pictured above, Vice Chair Shelley said of Chairman Burns, "What you do and when you do it is always positive for our County, whether it be locally, Statewide, nationally or internationally. Thank you, sir, for all you do."

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.